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Inter-Arab Affairs

Palestinian Envoy Calls For 'Decision' on Jerusalem

NC0105135495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 1 May (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent envoy to the Arab League and secretary of the Palestine National Council, has said that the Arab foreign ministers who will meet in Cairo on 6 May should take a strong Arab position on Israel's continued effort to Judaize Jerusalem and confiscate Palestinian lands.

He said Israel is trying to impose the final blow, to torpedo peace efforts, and to obstruct the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Subayh said the Palestinian delegation will ask the Arab ministers to make a decision concerning Israel's settlement activity in Jerusalem and the need for Israel to observe UN resolutions. He added that the Palestinian delegation will also ask that the Arab position be explained to the world and that the Arab countries refrain from normalizing relations with Israel before it abides by UN resolutions concerning Jerusalem and the peace process. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Husayni Reacts to Israeli Land Expropriation

Demands UN Resolution

JN0205083895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of Jerusalem affairs in the Palestinian National Authority, has stated that the Middle East peace process is threatened by Israel's decision to expropriate 53 hectares of land in the Jerusalem area.

Following a meeting with the current president of the UN Security Council [UNSC] at UN headquarters in New York, al-Husayni added that Israel's decision to confiscate land in East Jerusalem is a dangerous precedent after the signing of the Oslo agreement. Al-Husayni warned of the negative repercussions of the Israeli policy. He hoped the UNSC will adopt a resolution compelling Israel to cancel the confiscation decision forthwith.

Urges Halt to Normalization Process

NC0105150695 Paris AFP in English 1334 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, May 1 (AFP)—The Palestinian "minister" for Jerusalem Faysal al-Husayni urged Arabs Monday [1 May] to halt normalization of ties with Israel to force the Jewish state to heed Palestinian claims on the holy city.

"We must not continue normalisation with Israel," Faysal al-Husayni said in an interview published by the Egyptian opposition weekly AL-'ARABI.

"If Israel finds itself able to normalize with other Arab states without paying any price it will leave nothing to the Palestinians," said the "minister" with responsibility for Jerusalem affairs in the Palestinian Authority.

His comments came a day after the Israeli Government approved a decision to seize 53 hectares (131 acres) of Palestinian land in East Jerusalem to build homes for Jews, the biggest land grab since Israel annexed the area in 1967.

"Adequate measures must be taken to make Israel understand that it cannot do whatever it likes in Jerusalem and that there will be no peace as long as the Palestinians do not get their rights," al-Husayni said.

Al-Husayni said Israel "is ignoring the fact that Jerusalem is the key to peace and war."

"That's why we are asking for an Arab and international position to force the Jewish state to take back its decision," he added.

He warned that "if Israel continues to undermine the path to peace there will be no other alternative but that called for by the Islamist Palestinian opposition, the military option."

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat is taking the Palestinian case to the United Nations and an emergency meeting of the Arab League has been scheduled in Cairo for Saturday.

'Arafat wants a share of Jerusalem for the capital of a Palestinian state while Israel maintains the city will remain united under its sovereignty.

PNC Official Urges Condemnation of Israeli Plan

JN0105094595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 May 95 p 22

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has sent a memorandum to the speakers of Arab and international parliaments in which he cautioned against the danger behind the recent Israeli decision to confiscate lands in and around Jerusalem. He accused Rabin's government of trying to impose a final solution to the Jerusalem issue even before engaging in negotiations on the final stage.

The memorandum says that these measures contradict all international resolutions and charters, the terms of reference of the peace process in the region—on which the Madrid conference was based, and the negotiations and agreements that followed that conference. The memorandum notes that these measures accompany the series of violations by Rabin's government of the Oslo, Washington, and Cairo agreements, adding that they also coincide with a deliberate escalation of the iron-fist policy against the Palestinian people and detainees.

Al-Za'nun urged the parliament speakers to intervene in every way possible to pressure Israel to reverse its decision to confiscate the lands in Jerusalem, as well as to keep its hands off Palestinian detainees and to respond without delay to the requirements of the peace process. The foremost among these is withdrawal and redeployment in preparation for Palestinian elections.

Al-Za'nun called on Arab and international parliamentarians to denounce these measures, to ask their governments to intervene, and to urge the United Nations and concerned international organizations to rescue Jerusalem and the peace process.

Foreign Envoys Briefed on Land Seizure

JN0105171895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1505 GMT 1 May 95

[Telephone interview with Ghassan al-Khatib, lecturer at Bi'r Zayt University and official spokesman for the People's Party in Jerusalem, by Yasir 'Atilah in the studio from the "With the Events" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] ['Atilah] Ghassan al-Khatib, lecturer at Bi'r Zayt University and official spokesman for the People's Party, good evening.

[Al-Khatib] Good evening.

['Atilah] You have just returned from a meeting at Orient House. Who took part in this meeting and against what backdrop was it held?

[Al-Khatib] The meeting was held against the backdrop of the Israeli decision to expropriate over 4,000 dunams of land from Bayt Haninah and Bayt Safafa in the Jerusalem area. The meeting was attended by the consuls of foreign embassies in Jerusalem, as well as representatives of some international organizations, such as the Red Cross and the United Nations. On the Palestinian side, the meeting was attended by responsible Palestinian personalities, such as Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, Zahirah Kamal, Dr. Hisham Ahmad, and a number of concerned legal experts. The focal point of the meeting was the serious Israeli move of expropriating land to expand settlements and the danger this move poses to the status of Jerusalem, which we understand should be decided through subsequent negotiations, rather than through unilateral measures. The conferees also discussed the effect of this move on the peace process in general and on the Palestinian people's attitude toward the political process. We appealed to the representatives taking part in the meeting to intervene and urge Israel to rescind the expropriation decision and halt settlement as a whole. The representatives were given details about this decision and promised to convey our request to their governments. [passage omitted]

EC Consuls Concerned Over Jerusalem Land Seizures

TA0105172295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The European consuls who conferred with the Palestinian representatives in Jerusalem's Orient House said they view the reports they have received about land confiscation in Jerusalem with concern.

Speaking for the consuls, French Deputy Consul Jean (Pocell) said that the EC position on settlements is well known: They constitute an obstacle to peace.

Our correspondent Gay Qotev said that following the meeting, Ziyad Abu-Zayyad had said that the decision to expropriate land in East Jerusalem is a direct contradiction of the peace process. Sa'ib 'Urayqat called it real terrorist actions.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said today that he will not stop the peace process because of the land confiscations in Jerusalem. He also said that the Arab League will convene in an emergency session in Cairo next Saturday [6 May] to discuss the land confiscations by Israel in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that in a Gaza gathering on the occasion of 1 May, 'Arafat said that Israel is trying to starve the Palestinian laborers, but will not succeed because they refuse to give in.

Official Reiterates Desire for Integrated Pullout

MM0205095395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 May 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "'Arafat's Adviser Tells AL-HAYAH: We Insist on an Integrated Schedule for Israel's Withdrawal From All West Bank Towns"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza, AL-HAYAH—A Palestinian official has told AL-HAYAH that the talk about "Janin First" is inaccurate. He stressed the importance of "an integrated schedule" for Israel's withdrawal from all West Bank towns.

Hundreds of settlers demonstrated in Janin yesterday and the day before in protest against a possible Israeli withdrawal from this town in the north of the occupied West Bank. [passage omitted]

Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, information adviser to the Palestinian president, told AL-HAYAH that the talk about "Janin First is inaccurate, because no date for the elections has been agreed. Nor have the final plans for redeployment been drawn up. But there are some ideas."

He added: "The Palestinian side said that, if the withdrawal from Janin comes second, Bethlehem third, Hebron fourth, and so on until the withdrawal from Jerusalem, that is within a schedule beginning with Janin and ending with Jerusalem, the authority has no objection. And it is willing to discuss these plans, provided the Israeli Government raises this issue seriously and officially commits itself to a schedule specifying withdrawal plans and timetables."

He added: "We have not reached that point, and Israel is trying to give the impression that the Janin issue is moving fast and that there is progress. But the Palestinian side is waiting for any plan to conduct redeployment within a comprehensive view. That is, on the basis of an integrated schedule and the withdrawal from all West bank towns, including Jerusalem."

Rabin Said Interfering in Talks With Opposition

TA0105074695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 28 Apr 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Serious Talks in Gaza"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is possible to view the reaction of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the continuing dialogue between the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and the Palestinian opposition as a gauge of how serious the talks are and how serious the results of those talks could be. We are quite aware that Rabin would have preferred to see a civil war erupt, not only to liquidate the opposition but to ensure the Palestinian entity becomes embroiled in an endless cycle of violence. Rabin is hoping to see the PNA lose authority, and consequently, the popular base on which it continues to build. In other words, he wishes to see the very basis that gives the PNA the strength to demand the legitimate rights of the Palestinians eroded.

The ensuing chaos would then serve as an excuse for Israel to refuse to withdraw from the occupied West bank on the ground that security arrangements in the self-rule areas are lacking.

What makes the Rabin remarks as irksome as they are problematic is that the Israeli prime minister has allowed himself to interfere in a matter that concerns the Palestinians alone. One would hardly be overstressing the point in saying he has no right to dictate to the Palestinians a course that serves his interests and those of his settlements.

Rabin is starting out from the wrong premise that an agreement between the PNA and the opposition is an alliance against Israel. The truth is that a successful dialogue will have the opposite effect. It will ensure the PNA complete control of the security situation, and consequent stability in the area.

We would also like to remind Rabin that the PLO has no agreement with the government of Israel obliging the PNA to take responsibility for Israel's security either inside the "green line" or on Palestinian land not yet under Palestinian self-rule due to Israeli intransigence.

If this is the case, then an agreement between the PNA and the Palestinian opposition is no violation of the accords with Israel, and Rabin's objections make no sense. It would be better for Rabin to review the number of violations for which he is responsible and which the PNA has shown great patience in bearing in order to ensure the peace process remains intact.

Plot To Blow Up Jericho Security Building Revealed

JN0105101395 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 1 May 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that the self-rule authority has imposed a blanket of secrecy to prevent information being leaked out on the discovery of a daring plan to blow up the national security headquarters in Jericho last Thursday [27 April].

Citing the most reliable sources, AL-MAJD confirms that the operation, which was intended to be carried out with two car bombs, was discovered at the last moment, and that one of those involved in the plot has been arrested.

The reliable sources said that upon interrogation, the defendant admitted to being a member of the group led by Fatah leader Colonel Munir Maqdah, who resides in Sidon Camp in southern Lebanon and who rebelled against Yasir 'Arafat's leadership following the conclusion of the Oslo agreement.

He admitted that the blowing up of the national security command building where Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il, director of security in Jericho, has his offices, was supposed to take place in two stages with 15 minutes between the first and second car bomb to maximize causalities

The sources added that the investigations continue in complete secrecy and with the knowledge of the Israeli security agencies which, it seems, played a role in discovering the operation. The investigation focuses on exposing his accomplices, who are still in hiding, and to determine the Palestinian, Arab, or Islamic parties responsible for inspiring or ordering Maqdah to carry out this operation.

Jihad Suspends 'Field Meetings' With Authority

MM0105142195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 30 Apr 95 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Al-Shaqaqi Tells AL-HAYAH: Jihad Has Frozen Meetings With Palestinian Authority"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, has announced the suspension of the movement's participation in "any field meetings" with the Palestinian Authority's representatives for the time being.

He strongly denied the existence of any agreement with the Authority on the formation of "joint committees or a general secretariat" with a view to averting the eruption of a civil war in Gaza.

Al-Shaqaqi told AL-HAYAH in Damascus: "Our participation in the field meetings are frozen now, even though we have no objection to participating in any attempt to avert infighting."

He pointed out that working to prevent the breakout of a civil war among Palestinians "is different from conducting a political dialogue or merely thinking of suspending military action and suicide operations or handing over arms" to Palestinian police.

Palestinian sources in Gaza said the day before yesterday that Palestinian factions decided in a meeting held with the authority to form joint committees, a general secretariat, and a proposals committee, with a view to averting any inter-Palestinian armed clash.

Al-Shaqaqi stressed that "armed action is continuing and that it is forbidden (for the movement's elements) to hand over arms. Political dialogue (with the Authority) is not possible. However, we are willing to take part in any effort designed to avert infighting. And it has not been agreed to form committees, because we are demanding the release of all detainees and the abolition of the unfair trials" of Islamists in Gaza. He said that that "is a necessary step to spare the Palestinians civil war."

He pointed out that the "suspension" of his movement's participation in field meetings inside "is temporary until the movements' elements are released and the sentences are abolished. There is a difference between holding a field meeting and conducting a political dialogue, which cannot be conducted because of the conflicting political programs between the Islamic Jihad and the self-rule authority."

Security Agent: Accord With Jihad Soon

TA0105091595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 May 95 p 2

[Report by Lamia Lahoud]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] is close to reaching an agreement with Islamic Jihad in Gaza and Jericho, a senior Palestinian security agent in Gaza said.

The PA is demanding from Islamic Jihad that they stop all military operations against Israel in the autonomous areas, he said. "That also means the PA will not tolerate that militant groups plan and prepare actions in Gaza or hide after carrying out an attack in Israeli-controlled territories and then hide in Gaza," he said.

"That does not mean the PA is encouraging attacks from and in areas still under Israeli control," he added.

The PA wants the agreement with Islamic Jihad to be signed and publicized. According to PA officials, Islamic Jihad is still hesitant, because they do not want an official agreement, but rather unofficial understandings. Still, the PA believes the militant Islamic group will agree to its terms in the coming days.

When asked why Islamic Jihad would accept the PA's terms, the senior security agent said the PA offers Islamic Jihad only two options: to stop military actions from and inside PA areas and form a political opposition or face a serious crackdown, including arrests of activists and trials in the new security courts in Gaza.

The PA is trying to achieve a similar agreement with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. In return for giving up its military actions against Israel, the PA is offering Hamas to participate in the PA or to form a political opposition, according to PA officials. The security agent confirmed this, but admits that it will be more difficult to reach an agreement with Hamas.

Hamas has a much larger following than Islamic Jihad and is less pressured to accept the PA's terms, since they know the PA does not want any to have confrontation with them.

Muslim Ulema Warn 'Arafat Not To Detain Islamists

NC0105183395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement addressed to Yasir 'Arafat, hundreds of Muslim ulema warn him against the continuing raids on the homes of Palestinian Islamists and detaining them. The signatories to the statement, published in the Beirut newspaper AL-HAYAH, proclaim the Muslims' sure determination to liberate occupied Palestine. The Islamic leaders and thinkers warned the chairman of the Palestinian Authority that no individual or party is allowed to obstruct the movement of the Palestinian mujahidin.

Military Court Jails Gunman for 12 Years

NC0105204095 Paris AFP in English 1840 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, May 1 (AFP)—The Palestinian military court sentenced a gunman to 12 years in jail for firing at policemen in Gaza, legal officials said Monday [1 May].

Akram Abu-Shanab opened fire on the policemen without causing casualties when they tried to arrest him, the officials said without specifying whether Abu-Shanab belonged to a militant organisation.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights group, criticised the Palestinian state security court in a report last week and called for its abolition.

Palestine Liberation Organisation chief Yasir 'Arafat set up the court, run by military judges and allowing no right of appeal, to crack down on Islamic hardline groups after Israel repeatedly urged him to do more to prevent anti-Israeli attacks.

The court has also sentenced 11 militants from the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and Islamic Jihad to prison terms of up to 25 years, as well as an activist from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and his 14-year-old relative.

Fatwas Against Muslim Service in Knesset

Shaykh Abu-Faris's Fatwa

95AA0137A London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Apr 95 pp 19-21

[Unattributed article: "Shaykh Muhammad Abu-Faris: Fatwa on Legality of Entering the Jewish Parliament (Knesset)"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Praise belongs to God: We praise Him, entreat His aid, and pray for His forgiveness. We take refuge in God from the evils of our souls and from our misdeeds. Whomsoever God guides aright, no one can lead astray; and whomsoever He leads astray, no one can guide aright. We commence with that which is best. God has said: "Question the people of the remembrance, if you do not know." (Koran 21:7)

To proceed: It is well known in law that the Jews are the worst enemies of Islam and Muslims, as God has said: "Thou wilt surely find the most hostile of men to the believers are the Jews and those who associate [other deities with God]." (Koran 5:82) In Palestine, they are unbelievers who wage war on God and His Messenger. It is also well known that they occupied Palestine, usurped its land, shed the blood of its people—men, women, and children, old and young—drove away most of its people, and established on its land a racist Jewish state for the Jewish people alone.

This state was established to rend the Arab and Islamic world. It strives to fight Islam and its people, as the state's leaders and pillars said in their pronouncements—"Our inveterate enemy is Islam"; or, "We cannot be at ease until Islam sheathes its sword."

This state engages in weaving plots and uniting all the countries of unbelief and the enemies of Islam against Islam, its proponents, its scholars, its militants, its promoters, and its adherents. It distorts and slanders Islam. It distorts the image of every Muslim committed to his religion, creed, and law. It invents means to mislead and conspire—sensational slogans and provocative words. For example, it attributes extremism, terrorism, violence, and fundamentalism to Islam's proponents and militants, knowing all the while that it was itself established upon terrorism, violence, murder, and many massacres; and that it was established upon racism, for it rests on the accepted principle that Israel is a state for the Jewish people alone.

It is well known that these Jews came to Palestine from many countries and turned the Palestinians out of Palestine. They polluted Muslims' holy places. They forbade the name of God to be mentioned in God's mosques. They prevented mosques from being filled with worshipers and worship. They tried to destroy them and did destroy many of them. God has forbidden believers to take them as friends and has deemed an evildoer every Muslim who takes them as friends; as He has said: "God only forbids you as to those who have fought you in religion's cause, and have expelled you from your habitations, and have supported your expulsion, that you should take them for friends. And whosoever takes them for friends, those—they are the evildoers." (Koran 60:9)

The Muslim avoids them because God is wrathful against them and has cursed them, having described them in the Opening [Surah] of the Koran as "those against whom He is wrathful." The Muslim is legally commanded not to ally himself with them, assist them, take them as friends, or give them power over the land of Muslims: "O believers, take not for friends a people against whom God is wrathful." (Koran 60:13)

It is well known that the aggressive usurping Jewish state plotted to induce as many of the world's Jews as possible to emigrate to Palestine, so the state might be powerful demographically, militarily, technologically, and economically. Its power and weapons were to surpass those of the entire Arab world in preparation for an attack on that world at the appropriate time and for hegemony over it by tank or by tractor.

The Wise Lawgiver established the legal status of this aggressive racist state: It must be fought until it disappears from existence and every usurping Jew returns to whence he came. God has said: "And fight in the way of God with those who fight with you, but aggress not: God loves not the aggressors. And slay them wherever you come upon them, and expel them from where they expelled you." (Koran 2:191)

Jurists agree that when the enemy occupies an inch of Muslims' land, holy war against the occupiers becomes the personal duty of Muslims. The first to take up this duty are the people of the country that has been attacked, next those who border them, then those who border the latter, until the aggression is turned back and the occupation ceases.

Accordingly, holy war is incumbent as a personal obligation on the people of Palestine, including Palestine that was occupied in 1948, and the neighboring territory. It is forbidden to make peace with these usurping Jews, recognize their state, or establish friendly relations with it. Such agreements that have been made with the Jewish aggressor state, acknowledging the state and recognizing it and the land it has usurped—even a single inch of the land of Palestine—are void and forbidden, and anyone who has had a part in them has sinned; for they stipulate the perpetual alienation of most of the land of Palestine.

The Islamic nation is enjoined by law not to respect or be bound by these agreements, to reject them, and to work tirelessly to erase and nullify their consequences.

In the eyes of the law, these agreements are surrender, not legitimate peace. The Wise Lawgiver has forbidden concluding and implementing them, because they are surrender to the enemy's will and his desire to occupy the land and extend his sway over it. This is the ignominy to which God alluded when He said: "So do not faint and call for peace; you shall be the upper ones, and God is with you and will not deprive you of your works." (Koran 47:35)

It is well known that the legal ruling on normalization with the Jewish aggressor state is that it is forbidden. There is no doubt about this prohibition, because normalization means recognition of this state. It means renouncing Islamic sovereignty over Islamic land for Jewish sovereignty over it and readiness to maintain the state's security and protect its borders from every militant who fights his enemy to liberate his land and holy places. It aims at destroying the personality of the Islamic nation; attacking it culturally, economically, morally, and informationally; and controlling the nation's resources. It aims at combatting and blockading the Islamic movements.

On the basis of the aforementioned unambiguous legal texts, it is forbidden to recognize the Jewish aggressor state even on a single inch of Muslims' land, and it is forbidden to make peace with that state; nay, it is obligatory to fight it. It is also forbidden to participate in the existence of this unbelieving Jewish racist usurping state that fights against God, His Messenger, and believers, whether in the form of behavior that implies recognition, that maintains the state's security, that improves its reputation at home or abroad, that helps it to survive and continue, that strengthens the state materially or morally, or that strengthens any of the state's legislative, executive, or judicial institutions.

We hold that entering the parliament of the aggressive Jewish state that has usurped Palestine and other lands is behavior that accords to the aggressive state of the Jews' legitimacy and the right to survive and continue as an unbelieving racist state. Such behavior contributes to building this state; it strengthens its foundations and improves its reputation at home and abroad. It implies canceling the holy war to liberate all of Palestine and abandoning all the militant movements working to liberate all of Palestine. Normalization with the Jewish aggressor state is forbidden. Indeed, it is the pinnacle of normalization, surrender to the enemy's will, and shrinking from the holy war that God has commended and enjoined on every Muslim in all of Palestine and outside Palestine. It renders a great service to the Jewish entity, especially when the people of Palestine who have been downtrodden by the authorities of the Jewish aggressor state since 1948 surrender and participate in entering the Jewish parliament, the Knesset.

If the Islamic movement in the territory occupied in 1948 espouses entering the Knesset, it will lead to civil strife, shunning of the Islamic movement, and loss of confidence in it when people see it normalizing relations with their enemies and with its own unbelieving racist enemies, taking leadership positions in building this unbelieving Jewish state, and submitting to Jewish laws that are hostile to God and His Messenger (may God bless him and grant him peace).

Participation will also lead to internal strife in Islamic ranks and the one Islamic movement, weakening its strength and rending its unity. Hearts will be filled with aversion to each other; spirits will be torn apart and become preoccupied with themselves to the abandonment of their goals of liberating land and resuming Islamic life under an Islamic state that rules according to God's law. There is no doubt that preserving the unity of the community and of Islamic activity is one of the most certain obligations and that fragmentation, disagreement, and quarreling are among the greatest sources of corruption forbidden by the Wise Lawgiver; as God has said: "Do not quarrel together, and so lose heart, and your power depart." (Koran 8:46)

God has also said: "And hold you fast to God's bond, together, and do not scatter." (Koran 3:103)

Should this happen—God forbid!—it will gladden the usurping Jewish enemy and realize his dearest wish of seeing the Islamic movement divided against itself and preoccupied with itself instead of its enemy. What most exasperates the Jewish enemy is to see the militant Islamic movement as one fabric, with its hearts joined together and its spirits and ranks united. The presence of Islamic figures and preachers in the Knesset of the Jewish aggressor state, affirming the state's right to exist, survive, and continue, does not combat the occupation and does not struggle to remove or weaken the aggressor state; yea, such a presence strengthens the state. Participation in elections for the Knesset leads to revealing the cadres, members, and plans of the Islamic movement to the Government and security apparatus of the Jewish aggression, enabling them to strike and harass the movement. Entering the Jewish Knesset is a contradiction that raises doubts in minds. It is a clear contradiction between thought and behavior, a manifest contradiction between word and deed. The principle of Islamic law is that words and deeds should agree in sincere preachers and Muslim militants. It is repugnant to Islamic law for word and deed to contradict each other; as God has said: "Very hateful is it to God that you say what you do not do." (Koran 61:3)

The legal judgment on the existence of this Jewish state and the institutions that emanate from it is as clear as the midmorning sun: Their existence is rejected and void in the eyes of the law. It is forbidden to recognize it, strengthen it, or establish its foundations. Yet one sees some Islamic figures enter the Knesset, which holds that Palestine belongs to the Jews, calls it Israel, and says that

Israel is the state of the Jewish people alone; one sees them respecting that state, whereas God has commanded them to abolish, fight, and destroy it; one sees them adhering to the Jewish policy of rejecting and outlawing holy war; and one sees them joining to serve the Jewish entity and to strengthen it through political, economic, and security means.

Participation will numb and discourage the believing masses: When they see Islamic preachers traveling in the orbit of the Jewish government and in the plotting of the racist Jewish aggressor state, it will make them waver in fighting the Jewish enemies. It will even push the masses toward normalization and trust with the Jews. If the Islamic movement thinks of fighting the Jews and working to remove the Jewish state and appeals to those people who have identified themselves with the Jewish state, have been preparing to do so, and have served in the Jewish army or security apparatus, so that the Jews' morals and values have penetrated them; if the Islamic movement asks them to strive with it and fight under its command, they will not respond, because they have prepared the movement for surrender, not holy war. They have accustomed the Islamic movement to absorption and assimilation into Jewish society and to serving and strengthening Jewish society. They set an example in the matter. There will be regret, but it will be too late.

Participation is also a justification for those who have forsaken the Palestinian people, accepted self-rule, and ceded most of Palestine to the Jews. They want to coexist with this racist Jewish state established on their land and the land of their fathers and forefathers, land that was liberated for them by the companions of the Messenger of God (may God bless him and grant him peace). It is also a justification for those who have forsaken the people of Palestine and sided with the Jewish aggression, signing agreements with it in which they affirmed its ownership of the land of Palestine and the establishment of its aggressor state on it. They promised to maintain the state's security and sever the hand of anyone who would throw a stone or shoot a bullet at it.

Participation in the Knesset means taking the path to Judaizing Palestine and other lands. It means implementing the Jewish plot to make Jews emigrate to Palestine and other lands in order to settle there and expel the population. It is a justification henceforth for all who betrayed the cause—yea, a bill of clear conscience to them for the crimes they have committed against lands and holy places. It is rejection and condemnation, opposition and defamation of those who rejected them.

Entering the Knesset of the Jewish aggressor state, observing its racist laws, and assimilating into this aggressor entity utterly contradict the strategy that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has derived from Islam: rejecting recognition of the Jewish aggressor state, fighting it until it is destroyed, liberating all Palestine from the clutches of the Jews, and establishing an Islamic state in its stead. The basic tenet is that there should be harmony of positions and strategies in the one Islamic movement, or, more precisely, in Islamic legal judgment.

As for the argument that participating in the Knesset of the Jewish aggressor state safeguards the Islamic movement and its organizations and institutions, provides freedom for the Islamic call, and helps local Islamic authorities; that one becomes involved in safeguarding Islamic religious trusts and holy places, appointing judges, improving and developing the living conditions of the Arab public economically and educationally by shaping laws and by helping frustrate laws that erode Arab rights inside the country; that one becomes involved in order to manifest the weight of the Islamic presence at the Arab grass roots and highlight the Islamic position on issues of the moment, to participate in the political game, and to raise funds from abroad for Islamic movements, associations, and institutions and for local authorities: All of these are imaginary advantages that the Jewish enemy will never allow to be realized because of their racism and their state's racism—for that state is based on the principle that Israel is the state of the Jewish people only. Indeed, the Arab members of the Knesset leave when the Knesset wishes to discuss serious matters of state security. Arabs have been under Jewish rule in the Jewish aggressor state for nearly 50 years; there have been Arab members in the Knesset and on local councils demanding fairness for Arabs and others and equality with the Jews as Israeli citizens, but the results have been negative, because their state is racist and exclusively Jewish.

If we admit for argument's sake that there are benefits to entering the Knesset of the Jewish aggressor state, such benefits cannot stand in the face of the damages we have mentioned above. It is a maxim of Islamic law that averting damages takes precedence over gaining benefits—how much more so when we know that these very damages are specifically enumerated as damages and prohibited in the Koran and Sunnah? Therefore, no imagined benefit can stand in their face. Indeed, if this benefit conflicts with a damage, it is not a true benefit and should be discarded. True benefit lies in following rules deduced from the injunctions of the Book of God and the Sunnah of His Messenger.

In summary: On the basis of the preceding proofs from revelation and reason and following the principle of barring excuses and the rule that averting damages takes precedence over bringing benefits, participation in elections for the parliament (Knesset) of the Jewish enemy, who established his state in the land of Palestine and stipulated that it should be a state for the Jewish people alone, is forbidden in Islamic law. All Muslims, male and female, are forbidden to participate in such elections through any form of participation or contribution, whether by standing as a candidate in elections, participating in the election campaign, or spending money for that purpose. It is also forbidden to participate in the Jewish aggressor state's executive authority or judiciary, the Jewish army, or the Jewish police.

The people of Palestine, especially those within the 1948 zone, should not consent to the seizure of Muslim land by this usurping enemy; they should not make peace with him or participate in his institutions so as to strengthen this enemy and entrench his oppressive, unjust state. They should strive against him with their lives and property. They and others should fight this oppressive state until they eliminate it and Islamic sovereignty returns to Palestine. They should stand firm in their effort and continue until victory with God's permission. God has said: "Many a prophet there has been, with whom thousands manifold have fought, and they fainted not for what smote them in God's way, neither weakened, nor did they humble themselves; and God loves the patient. Nothing else they said but, 'Lord, forgive us our sins, and that we exceeded in our affair, and make firm our feet, and help us against the people of the unbelievers.' And God gave them the reward of this world and the fairest reward of the world to come; and God loves the good-doers." (Koran 3:146-48)

Shaykh al-Qardawi's Fatwa

95AA0137B London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Apr 95 p 21

[Unattributed article: "Al-Qardawi's Fatwa on Entry Into Knesset by Muslims of the Occupied Territories"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Praise be to God, and blessing and peace upon the Messenger of God and upon his family, companions, and friends.

To proceed: In the view of Islamic law, "Israel" is an entity intrusive to the region that has imposed itself on the region by force of iron and fire, by bloodshed, and by emptying the land of its inhabitants through fear and terrorism, thereby planting in the abode of Islam an alien state opposed to the nation's goals and hostile to its people. It is like a foreign organ in the Arab Islamic body, rejected by the other parts of the body.

It has become the personal obligation of the people of Palestine in particular and of Muslims in general to resist this hostile, usurping, and intrusive entity and to strive with their lives and property to expel it, without flagging in their purpose no matter how much effort and trouble it costs them: "If you are suffering, they are also suffering as you are suffering, and you are hoping from God for that which they cannot hope." (Koran 4:104)

"Many a prophet there has been, with whom thousands manifold have fought, and they fainted not for what smote them in God's way, neither weakened, nor did they humble themselves; and God loves the patient." (Koran 3:146)

Muslims have faced many attackers in their long history, but they have never faced any attack like this Zionist one in its ends and means.

Earlier attackers, like the Tatars and Crusaders and others, were content to occupy territory, leaving the inhabitants on the land. It was enough for them to rule and control the areas.

These attackers, however, want to empty the land of its people, so they may inhabit it after their departure and establish in it their unjust state. This they have indeed done. They have gone further than the French colonial empire in Algeria, for the latter did not empty the country of its original inhabitants.

As for their means, the massacres by Zionist gangs in Dayr Yasin and other Palestinian villages tell the story.

Therefore, the position of Islamic law toward the Zionist entity is complete rejection, heroic resistance, and continued holy war until God establishes that which is true and annul that which is false, though the sinners be adverse to it: "And fight in the way of God with those who fight with you, but aggress not: God loves not the aggressors. And slay them wherever you come upon them, and expel them from where they expelled you." (Koran 2:191)

It follows that every dealing that accords this usurping entity the right to exist, or grants it the right to survive and continue, or implies that these aggressors have any legal authority whatever over the land of Palestine is invalid. All that proceeds from what is invalid is itself invalid—not to mention whatever might be feared to imply some sort of trust in those who have acted unjustly or friendship toward those who oppose God and His Prophet and make war on Islam and Muslims.

To this end it is legally necessary to reject peace with the Zionists who have usurped the land, scattered its people, and shed their blood. This is not peace; it is weakness and submission. God says: "So do not faint and call for peace; you shall be the upper ones, and God is with you and will not deprive you of your works." (Koran 47:35)

It is in light of these facts that we consider the question asked by brothers in 1948-occupied Palestine about whether it is permitted to enter the Jewish state's parliament (Knesset). Some of them think this will bring benefits and gains to their community and help them confront the state, and various other arguments have been adduced in this regard.

This consideration, the realization of particular benefits, was what first came to mind and once led me to state orally to the brothers who questioned me about the matter that it was subject to the principle of balancing benefits and damages, which is a basic principle of Islamic law in the area of policy.

However, now that I have turned over all sides of the argument and looked deeply into the issue and its various aspects, it has become clear to me that the correct position from the legal point of view requires rejecting entering the Zionist enemy's parliament (Knesset) because of the implicit recognition this would suggest of their right to exist or remain on the usurped land; issues that must always be denied and continuously opposed. We, the owners of the land, must never grant to the usurpers the land they seized. We must not behave in any way that makes others feel we have done so, however long the time may be: For time's passage does not turn falsehood into truth, and does not make sin licit.

The logic by which we rejected the alleged peace is the same logic by which we reject participation in the enemy's parliament.

However, if we consider the matter according to the criterion of benefit, carefully and assiduously applying the principle of balance, we shall find that real, not imaginary interest; long-term, not short-term interest; the comprehensive interest of the entire Palestinian people and their cause; the interest of the holy war and its continuation; and the interest of the Islamic call and its spread—all these things require that the enemy be fought and that they be treated as intruders and usurpers or as larcenous thieves. Thus they shall live as pariahs in the conscience of the people, rejected by its members, lacking legitimacy in their minds and consciences. Therein lies a great moral loss for the enemy and a great moral gain for us, to be added to our reserve of resistance and steadfastness.

Legal principles dictate that in comparing damages with benefits or benefits with each other, averting damage takes precedence over bringing benefit; that the interest of the whole takes precedence over the interest of the part; and that long-term benefit takes precedence over short-term benefit.

It is therefore a sin to participate in the enemy's parliament and similar institutions, save to the extent that some particular necessity demands it. Necessity has its own rules; however, such necessity should be assessed properly, without exaggeration, lest the exception become a rule.

All the people of Palestine must hold fast to their right with all their strength, patiently, vying in patience, and steadfastly. As God has said: "O believers, be patient, and vie you in patience; be steadfast; fear God; haply so you will prosper." (Koran 3:200) And they should pray to God as the believers who were companions of Saul prayed: "Our Lord, pour out upon us patience, and make firm our feet, and give us aid against the people of the unbelievers!" (Koran 2:250) O God, amen!

U.S. Could Be 'Biggest Loser' in Fueling 'Anarchy'

MM0105144295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Apr 95 p 9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "America and the Banana Republics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The plane was passing through Saudi air space on its way from Sudan to Lebanon. It was claimed that its passengers included a man wanted in the United States. It was also claimed that the man was 'Imad Mughniyah, who has been accused of perpetrating terrorist acts in the United States. The Americans had long wanted to catch him at some friendly airport, but the U.S. wish has not come true. Saudi Arabia let the aircraft through with its passengers.

Less than a week earlier a Libyan plan suddenly landed at Jeddah Airport and then returned to Libya, transiting Egyptian air space on its way.

The American reaction was fierce because they had expected a friendly state like the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to arrest the suspect and hand him over to them and also to prevent the Libyan plane from landing or at least prevent it from taking off again. They had also expected a friendly state such as Egypt to prevent the Libyan plane from transiting its air space twice.

Some Americans believe that the Saudis should have done what the Sudanese did when they voluntarily arrested their guest Carlos and handed him alive and in chains to French intelligence, and that the Egyptians should have done what the Sudanese Government did when it turned down a Libyan request to allow its aircraft to return from Jeddah via Sudan. Some Americans expressed condemnation, repeating their well-known proverb: "With friends like that who needs enemies."

The problem is that Washington today takes only one thing into consideration, namely short-term U.S. interests without any regard for the region's circumstances and dangers. Libya risked sending out a single plane carrying poor pilgrims, realizing that if for some reason the plane was downed that would not cost Libyan officials anything but would in fact earn them a decoration for bravery. That is why it risked making that trip. Furthermore, intercepting a civilian aircraft on its way to Lebanon and taking one of its passengers handcuffed to Washington, as Khartoum did with Carlos, might make the U.S. Justice Department happy but it would create an atmosphere of piracy and thuggery in the region.

It is true that the evil empire, as former U.S. President Ronald Reagan used to call the Soviet Union, has disappeared, but that does not mean that the world's states have all become banana republics. Many governments have the highest possible regard for U.S. interests because they recognize the importance of the United States, interact with political situations, and seek to serve mutual interests, without forfeiting their own interests, security, and self-respect.

In fact, the United States would itself be the biggest loser if political anarchy, which it is unwittingly trying to promote, spreads in our region, where the fire is so close to the powder keg. The United States has the biggest share of the world's exports to the region and the biggest vested interest in the continuation of the region's oil exports.

To be continued.

OPEC Affairs

Little Impact on Oil Market Foreseen From U.S. Ban

NC0105153795 Paris AFP in English 1313 GMT 1 May 95

[By Nadim Kawash]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, May 1 (AFP)—A U.S. ban on all investment and trade links with Iran could boost crude prices in the United States but will have little impact on the world oil market, experts said on Monday [1 May].

While the decision by U.S. President Bill Clinton would deprive U.S. firms of nearly one million barrels per day (bpd) of Iranian crude, they could easily find other suppliers and Tehran would seek new buyers in Europe and Asia.

"In the short term, the ban will push up the prices of West Texas Intermediate in the United States as U.S. companies would try first to compensate the shortage from there," said Henry Azzam, chief economist at the National Commercial Bank, the biggest bank in Saudi Arabia.

"They then could find a substitute in Saudi Arabia and other producers while Iran would try to find new clients in Europe, Japan and other Asian consumers even at cheaper prices.

"In other words, this will lead to a restructuring of crude supplies in the market and that is the only effect of the U.S. decision," he told AFP by telephone from the Red Sea port of Jeddah.

Clinton announced the ban on Sunday to pressure Iran to halt support for terrorism and its drive to acquire nuclear arms. Iran has denied both charges.

White House aides said Clinton would sign an executive order imposing the ban this week. It will apply to U.S. companies and their subsidiaries and will take effect one month after signing.

The move will halt all U.S. exports to Iran, estimated at 326 million dollars in 1994, and block access to the lucrative oil market in Iran, which has been involved in projects to increase its crude output capacity.

Iran currently produces around 3.6 million bpd under an OPEC quota production agreement and its sustainable output capacity is estimated at four million bpd. Development projects, worth billions of dollars, would push capacity to more than five million bpd by 2000.

The Persian Gulf nation is the third biggest oil power in the world after Saudi Arabia and Iraq, with an estimated reserves of 100 billion barrels.

Around 2.6 million bpd of its crude production are exported to companies from the United States, Japan, South Korea and Turkey among others.

Between 800,000 and one million bpd are supplied to U.S. firms such as Exxon, Coastal, Caltex, Mobil, Texaco, Bayoil and Derby.

Washington banned U.S. companies from buying Iranian oil directly eight years ago, but their subsidiaries have been allowed to buy and resell it elsewhere in the world.

Oil analysts said the U.S. ban on Iran could hit the oil market only if other industrial countries followed suit. But they doubted that would happen as it would deprive of a key regional market.

"I don't think it is in the interest of Japan or Western countries to ally with the U.S. in this problem," a Gulf-based oil analyst said.

"Iran constitutes a major market for them and a main oil supply source in the short and long terms. Another factor is that there is no real cause to be supported by the West as is the case with Iraq and Libya."

The analysts said they did not expect any major increase in prices of Brent and other crudes, which have already surged by around 20 percent since the start of 1995 due to speculation that a UN oil embargo on Iraq imposed in August 1990 would not be lifted soon.

They also ruled out an emergency meeting by the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries over the U.S.-Iran crisis.

"Iran can still export oil unlike the situation in embargo-hit Iraq. I don't think there will be any supply crisis in the market, so there is no need for any emergency talks by OPEC," one expert said.

"What will happen is that there could be a limited, temporary problem in the market caused by the change in supplies and purchases.

"It could also affect Iranian oil development plans in the short term as there will be a shortage of technology and equipment ordered earlier from U.S. firms."

S. Asian Regional Affairs

Regional Delegates Attend SAARC Summit in New Delhi

Committee To Stress Poverty Issue

BK2904101595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Standing Committee of the foreign secretaries of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries have recommended that the summit of the heads of government should declare the current year as the Year of Poverty Eradication.

In an exclusive interview, the foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider, has described this as the biggest element in their draft declaration. He said that eradication of poverty is the central theme for the SAARC countries this year.

Mr. Haider said that the two meetings of the Standing Committee were held in a businesslike and cooperative spirit. He said it has almost finished its agenda of 23 items. The Standing Committee will have a brief meeting today to finalize its recommendations to be put before the Council of Ministers meeting tomorrow to take decisions which are to be placed before the SAARC summit next week.

Poverty 'Action Plan' Finalized

BK0105124595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign ministers have finalized an action plan to eradicate poverty in the South Asian region by the year 2002. At their ongoing meeting in New Delhi, they suggested setting up of national commissions in all member countries to carry out antipoverty programs. The action plan will be referred to the SAARC heads of state and government for approval at their eighth summit beginning tomorrow. The action plan calls for making poverty eradication the center of national development plans and budgets.

King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan arrived in New Delhi this morning to attend the SAARC summit. He was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and the foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider. The Maldivian president, Mr. Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, is expected to arrive later today. The presidents of Pakistan and Sri Lanka and the prime ministers of Bangladesh and Nepal are coming tomorrow.

Minister Urges Kashmir Discussion

BK3004133395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir has stressed the need for including the Kashmir issue in the agenda of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. In a telegram to heads of SAARC states, Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan said that SAARC conferences so far concentrated on peripheral matters which produced nothing and were in fact sheer wastage of time and resources. He said attention should now be paid to the burning issue of Kashmir, which could disturb the peace of the entire region. He said India's expansionist design against her small neighbors was destabilizing them through organized sabotage activities within them. The countries in the region felt increasing sense of insecurity because of India's growing military might and threatening nuclear and missile regimes. Sardar Qayyum said it was a historic opportunity for heads of SAARC countries to use this platform for resolving basic issues.

The leader of the opposition in Azad Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and former Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, Raja Mumtaz Hussain Rathore, has demanded observer status in the United Nations for Azad Kashmir and repatriation of Indian forces from occupied Kashmir in order to pave the way for holding a plebiscite. He was giving impressions about his recent visit to Geneva where he addressed international human rights commission and held meetings with OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] diplomats. He said Azad Jammu and Kashmir enjoys separate entity. It has its own political and judicial setups, flag and anthem, culture and language, which qualify it to be included as a member of the United Nations or at least as an observer. He said foreign countries had conceded the fact that considered Kashmir as a time bomb. [sentence as heard]. They seriously apprehend its explosion if it remained unresolved anymore. The gravity of the issue has made it a focal point of the entire world. Responding to a question, he said India was not in a position to hold elections in the held Kashmir and it was its sheer hoax to cheat the world.

Kashmiris held a demonstration in Islamabad today to protest against the siege of Charar Sharif by the Indian forces in occupied Kashmir. It was organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Human Rights Movement. The demonstrators handed over a memorandum to the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad, protesting against Indian atrocities and calling upon Indian leaders to stop genocide of the Kashmiris and lift the siege of the holy shrine in Charar Sharif. The memorandum drew attention to the fact that Kashmiris inside the shrine are being tortured.

Pakistan Calls Kashmir 'Core Issue'

BK0105123295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said the Kashmir dispute is the core issue between Pakistan and India and should be resolved to help promote regional cooperation. He was talking to Pakistani media representatives in New Delhi last night after the inaugural session of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] Council of Ministers.

The council discussed ideas on how to improve cooperation among the seven SAARC countries. The members of the council discussed economic and social issues facing the region while preparing for the SAARC summit meeting beginning tomorrow. The foreign minister said Pakistan has been stressing the need to develop a strategy to resolve political problems in the region. On possible changes in the SAARC Charter in view of the existing restrictions on raising contentious bilateral issues, the foreign minister said the SAARC leaders should decide on any change. When asked whether Pakistan requested bilateral talks between President Leghari and Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, he said the request for such talks was actually made by India.

India Urges Greater Cooperation

BK3004135695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has called for strengthening regional cooperation among the seven SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] member nations at a faster pace. Opening the two-day meeting of the SAARC foreign ministers in New Delhi today, the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, said the countries in the region have the resources, talent, and capabilities to ensure ambitious cooperation. He said only cooperation can ensure progress of the South Asian region.

Mr. Mukherji, who was elected chairman of the SAARC council of ministers, said optimizing regional potential has become essential strategy in many regions in the world. Regional cooperation is increasingly becoming a dynamic instrument for promoting economic growth and development. The minister regretted that the environment of trade continues to be difficult for developing countries. Barriers of protectionism against exports of these countries persist despite establishment of World Trade Organization.

The foreign ministers meeting will finalize the agenda for the SAARC summit meeting beginning on Tuesday. It will also consider the list of items for tariff concession among the member countries. The ministers are also discussing how to make the South Asia Preferential Trade Arrangement, SAPTA, operational by the year end.

Agreement on Tariff Concessions

BK0105162995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries today took a major step towards making South Asia Preferential Trade Agreement, SAPTA, operational by agreeing on areas for tariff concessions. The foreign ministers of the member countries also decided to further strengthen economic ties and generally agreed to proposals for a South Asia Free Trade Arrangement and for setting up a South Asia Development Fund. The foreign ministers, during their two-day meeting in New Delhi, also finalized the draft declaration which will be considered at the summit beginning tomorrow.

Briefing newspersons this evening, the foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider, said the foreign ministers were unanimous on the need for going ahead with a larger concept to boost trade within the region, which is now around $3 billion. It was felt that an action committee should go into the conception of free trade arrangement. Referring to tariff concessions under SAPTA, Mr. Haider said India has allowed concessional tariffs for as many as 106 items, followed by Pakistan, 35; Sri Lanka, 31; the Maldives, 17; Nepal, 14; Bangladesh, 12; and Bhutan, seven.

The foreign secretary said India offered trade concessions on a large number of items as an important gesture to operationalize SAPTA as it wants liberalized trade in the region. He said the foreign ministers recommended that the process of ratification of SAPTA and other formalities should be completed by 8 November this year, a month before the agreement is to be made operational. The 10th anniversary of SAARC is falling on 8 December and it was felt that SAPTA should come into force before that date.

Mr. Haider said another important decision was to have informal consultations on a regular basis among the member nations to explore possibilities of cooperation with international bodies and trade groupings like the ASEAN, the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation], and the Indian Ocean rim countries. It was decided to observe 1995 as the SAARC Year of Poverty Eradication. Meetings at three levels of economic, planning, and finance ministries are to be held to give a practical shape to the plan of action in this regard. India offered to host the first meeting. The SAARC visa exemption is to be expanded with inclusion of ministers of foreign affairs, foreign secretaries, SAARC secretary general, and presidents of national chambers of commerce.

Meanwhile, SAARC leaders have started arriving in the capital for tomorrow's summit, with King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan being the first head of state to reach the capital.

Sri Lankan Minister on Peace Process

BK0205043795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr. Lakshman Kadirgamar, has reiterated his government's commitment to go ahead with the peace process in the island nation. In an interview to Radio Newsreel, he, however, hinted at further military action to repel hostile attacks by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Mr. Kadirgamar is currently in New Delhi to attend the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit.

Algeria

Security Forces Eliminate 28 More 'Terrorists'

LD2904223195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement, the security services have announced that their forces today eliminated a group of five terrorists in Oued Ouchaieh district of Algiers and recovered five automatic guns.

In another statement, it was announced that the security forces have managed to eliminate 23 terrorists in the Provinces of Oum El Bouaghi, Mascara, Sidi Bel Abbes, Tlemcen, Mostaganem, Boumerdes, Bouira, Tiaret, and Jijel. The security forces were also able to recover a quantity of weapons and ammunition during the same operations.

FIS' Haddam Outlines Differences With Regime

MM2804111395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Apr 95 p 4

[Report on interview with Anouar Haddam, head of the Islamic Salvation Front Parliamentary Mission Abroad, by Muhammad Sadiq in Washington; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Anouar Haddam, head of the [Algerian Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] Parliamentary Mission Abroad, has said that "the decision of the military establishment in Algeria to replace the force of the ballot box with the force of arms has led to the state's collapse. And that the regime in Algeria—after its rejection of the 'national covenant' for establishing stability in the country, which was signed in Rome by the political parties—is trying to grant legitimacy to itself by pushing toward illegitimate presidential elections."

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Washington Haddam added that "the political parties representing legitimacy in Algeria, and which signed the Rome document, rejected any elections held in a state controlled by the security forces and experiencing a state of emergency." He added: "Moreover, the FIS, which is the majority party, is still outlawed, and thousands of its leaders and members are still in prison, abroad, or hiding."

He warned that prolonging the crisis will not be in the interests of the state in Algeria, which has lost its credibility. And that its insistence on resolving the crisis militarily, and its failure to secure a political solution will cause the situation to collapse further. He said: "We believe that the crisis cannot be resolved without the Rome document. And that the national covenant is the solution."

Told that the FIS is in a difficult position now, and that there is a split between the Armed Group and the Salvation Army, Haddam said: "That is absolutely untrue. The FIS is a slogan and a project—a project represented in an Islamic state, a state of right and justice. And with regard to the military situation, the mujahidin are fine, praise be to God. They are engaged in the same war and working for the same peace. Everyone is working to achieve the aim for the sake of which the FIS, which is the majority party, was elected. What the regime is saying about inflicting defeats on the mujahidin and achieving victories is untrue."

On the dialogue and its results over the past few months and the attempts to resolve the crisis, Haddam said, "the Rome document (national covenant) urged everyone to persuade the forces in charge to adopt the Rome document. On that basis, representatives of four of the parties signatory to the Rome document went to meet with President Zeroual in a bid to persuade him to adopt the Rome document and its basic principles. But the regime refused. It seems that it (the regime) still has not accepted the basic principles of the national covenant (the Rome document)."

On a solution, Haddam said that "we have always said that the national covenant contains basic principles, without which there can be no solution, and failure to accept them is preventing a political and peaceful solution to the Algerian issue. As far as we (FIS) are concerned, this means continuing the jihad."

He added: "This is one point. The other point is for the regime to accept these principles. The first tangible indication of its acceptance of the solution offered by the Rome document is for the regime to allow FIS leaders and the mujahidin to meet, and to provide security guarantees for that."

Asked about what is being reported regarding the possibility of the signatories to the Rome document holding a third meeting in Algeria, Haddam said: "We say that FIS leaders and the mujahidin must first be allowed to meet. It would mean that the regime is willing to accept pluralism and the people's right to defend their constitutional institutions. Then a national conference bringing together all the political parties, including the FIS, would be held in Algeria. So no FIS representative can participate in a national conference in Algeria before that meeting [FIS leaders' meeting]. The national conference, after the basic condition to which I referred, is a preparation for the transitional phase, as the parties signatory to the Rome document agreed to participate in and supervise the transitional phase lest the regime monopolize its supervision."

Haddam added that "the Rome document referred to meetings inside and outside Algeria. And since favorable conditions are not available, and the meetings in Algeria have borne no fruit, the signatories to the Rome document might hold a third meeting soon."

On reports about the idea of forming a "committee of wise men" Haddam said that the FIS has from the outset rejected the regime's national dialogue proposals "because these proposals always avoided the main axes of the crisis. These axes were mentioned in the Rome document. And here is the regime trying to divert Algerian and world public opinion's attention from the national covenant by proposing the presidential elections and the idea of a committee of wise men. But our response is: The national covenant is there. We consider it a national accord among the various principal parties representing the people. And the military must accept the basic principles stipulated in the national covenant. Then they would be free to present any proposals at the negotiating table."

On his participation in the Arab Islamic People's Congress [AIPC] conference held in Khartoum recently Haddam said: "We responded to the invitation to attend the conference in the FIS' name in order to express its positions on issues of concern to the Islamic world. Based on the recommendations of the signatories to the Rome document—and Ait Ahmed did the same when he participated in the socialist parties meeting in Madrid, where he sought support for the Rome document—we went there to urge Islamic parties and movements to support the Rome document. They agreed in principle, and the final statement stipulated this."

Asked about his participation on the sidelines of the conference in meetings described as more important than the public sessions and debates and as the real secret conference, Haddam said: "Our policy in the FIS is to work openly at this political stage. True, bilateral meetings were held with numerous Islamic parties, in which we discussed our preoccupations with joint issues, which, as I said earlier, concern the future of the Islamic world and the Western world and ways of dealing with the advocates of the idea of a confrontation between the Islamic world and the Western world in Western circles."

On the resolutions and recommendations adopted at these undeclared important meetings, Haddam said " no resolutions were adopted at these meetings. The parties and movements were left to examine and discuss these issues."

Asked whether [AIPC Secretary General] Dr. Hasan al-Turabi renewed his offer to mediate between the FIS and the regime, and whether mediation had been offered in the past, Haddam said, "they offered to mediate, and we did not object to any good offices proceeding from the national covenant (the Rome document), which should be complied with. And the principles contained in it should be adhered to. The national covenant should be the basis of any serious negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive peaceful political solution."

Asked whether al-Turabi conducted a mediation and what the outcome was, Haddam said: "It is not in the nature of the FIS Parliamentary Mission Abroad to talk about these attempts or mediations. Because there are people working to prevent a solution to the Algerian issue and to aggravate the situation in Algeria, because they are aware of Algeria's status as a major regional power, which is why they are working to destroy it. So I have no comment on what was discussed."

He added that this "applies to all FIS talks and contacts abroad.

"And I would like to stress that those seeking to obstruct any peaceful solution exist even in the U.S. Administration."

Justice Minister Returns From Crime Conference

LD3004135595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Minister of Justice Mohamed Adami left Cairo this morning after participating in the opening session of the 9th International Conference on Crime and Treatment of Criminals, which will last until 8 May.

In a statement he made before leaving Cairo, the minister of justice assessed his participation in the conference and the various contacts he made with the ministers attending the proceedings. Within this context, the minister stated that the ministers concerned with the problem of crime and the best means of combating it had expressed their readiness to tackle the problem.

Adami affirmed that organizing such a conference proof of the countries' will to combat a phenomenon which has negative effects on societies. He added that a number of Third World states who had ignored or were ignoring this fact are aware of the danger such a phenomenon might bring about.

Furthermore, the minister of justice announced that he held talks with a number of ministers participating in the conference on the topics on the agenda and the means to consolidate bilateral cooperation in the field of justice. The minister pointed out that his meetings with other ministers dealt with the situation in Algeria and the state of law, saying that the presidential elections in Algeria constitute a vital phase to return to legitimacy. [passage omitted]

It is worthwhile to point out that the Justice Minister Mohamed Adami had talks yesterday with the Italian minister of interior on the topics on the agenda of the conference and bilateral cooperation in combating crime, particularly in the Mediterranean region. This meeting was also an opportunity to review cooperation between the two countries in the justice field.

The justice minister also met the Egyptian minister of justice and interior and his Chinese and South African counterparts. The talks focused on bilateral relations in the field of justice and means to bolster them.

It is worthwhile to mention that Algeria was elected yesterday in Cairo as a vice president of the 9th international conference on the prevention of crime and treatment of criminals. It was elected for this position in appreciation for its just stands internationally.

Egypt

AL-WAFD Assails U.S. Trade Embargo on Iran

NC0205083395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—AL-WAFD states that the United States is mistaken if it imagines that a trade embargo is a heavy stick in its hand with which it can strike disorderly governments that do not please the White House.

In its editorial today it says adding Iran to the list of countries subject to a trade embargo is just a new flagrant example of the U.S. Administration's insistence on burying its head in the sand and ignoring that the embargo hurts nations, not governments.

The paper adds that apart from disputes with Iran over some of its policies, the United States has previously tried the policy of embargo and trade sanctions with Vietnam, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, and others. Each time, the paper notes, Washington sold illusion to the world and violated the sanctions it imposed by itself when such sanctions contravened the interests of U.S. companies.

The paper asserts that it does not rule out the United States, in a few days, asking other countries to join it in lifting the embargo on Iran [as received] when the cake that is Iranian oil is baked and the U.S. priority is to create the atmosphere for U.S. companies to eat the cake.

Article Views 'Holes' in Sanctions Wall

NC3004071895 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 24 Apr 95 p 4

[From the "Foreign Policy" column by 'Abd-al-'Azim Hammad: "Holes in the Blockade Wall"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The terrible terrorist incident in Oklahoma City and the decision by the UN Security Council's sanctions committee to allow the transport of Libyan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia by air are linked by the coincidence of timing alone. Of course, it was coincidence alone that made these two events follow the Security Council's decision to allow Iraq to sell part of its oil to finance the (humanitarian) needs of the Iraqi people.

A little pondering shows that there are other factors linking the Oklahoma incident to the permission to transport the Libyan pilgrims and to allow Iraq to sell part of its oil. All of them are holes in the wall of the psychological and political embargo imposed by the major Western powers not only on Libya and Iraq but also on the image of the Arab and the Muslim in Western eyes.

Let us start with the stand toward Iraq and Libya. In the case of Iraq, there is no doubt that the Arab dismay with the continued sufferings of the Iraqi people and the pressures of some influential countries—such as Egypt, China, and France—were behind the Security Council's decision. It appears that the United States and Britain accepted this decision as a compromise between the complete lifting of the sanctions and the continuation of the painful and unacceptable current situation. This in itself is proof that Washington and London feel that the day is coming near when they will have to yield to the demand to lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

In the Libyan case, several pilgrimage seasons had passed since the air blockade was imposed on Libya during which the Security Council's sanctions committee showed no change of heart and did not allow the pilgrims to fly to perform their rites. So what happened this year?

Of course it was not Libya's decision to send its pilgrims by air because the Libyan Government had tried in vain to do so during the past seasons. Therefore, something must have happened to breach the blockade on Libya. We know that there is new evidence that absolves the two Libyans accused in the Lockerbie incident, which was the cause for imposing the sanctions, that will at least shake the conviction that Libya was responsible for the incident. We also know that there have been a number of initiatives adopted by Egypt and the Arab League to resolve the crisis between Libya and the Western countries.

We now come to the Oklahoma incident. It proved, among other things, that terrorism is not the particular trait of any culture or race. The civilized West has forgotten this axiom amid the din of presses, the blare of microphones, and the television cameras, all of which pin the accusations of terrorism on the Arabs and Muslims even though it was Western civilization that gave history a war that was unprecedented in its bestiality, namely the opium war that was waged in the last century against China to prevent its government from combating the opium trade that destroyed its people. This is not mentioning the two world wars, colonialism, the terrorist and anarchist organizations, and the racism that still exists in all Western countries to this day.

How could the Arabs widen these holes so as to breach the Western blockade wall?

They have, of course, to learn the lessons of the past to avoid its lethal mistakes. They then have to learn how to resolve their differences through peaceful means. Lastly, they have to try a prescription called democracy in managing their societies if they do not want to live permanently in conflict with their age and contemporaries.

Paper Criticizes Israeli Expropriation of Land

NC0205075695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says Israel's decision to expropriate

53 hectares of Palestinian land in east Jerusalem has evoked genuine fears by the advocates of peace.

In its editorial today it adds that the Israeli decision reveals the Israeli Government's true intentions. It notes that the Israeli Government clings to the principle of peace for peace and does not want to recognize the principle of land for peace, a principle consistent with international legitimacy and that truly guarantees genuine peace and stability.

The paper says the Palestinian Authority is now in a real deadlock before the Palestinian people who supported the Declaration of Principles hoping they would emerge from the jail of occupation and build their independent state. It emphasizes that the supporters of peace cannot close their eyes to the new Israeli decision or to the bomb designed to undermine the peace process.

The paper notes that even if Egypt has declared its stance and denunciation of this new Israeli violation of international charters and the Cairo Accord and even if the Arab foreign ministers meet in Cairo on Saturday [6 May] to discuss this blatant Israeli decision, salvaging the peace process will basically be a task for the U.S. Administration.

The paper asks whether U.S. credibility will materialize this time before the region reaches a deadlock. It asserts that the U.S. Administration knows that the Arabs have shown as good intentions as possible while Israel has presented nothing but resounding statements.

MB Spokesman Says Government Victimizing Group

NC0105204695 Paris AFP in English 1802 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, May 1 (AFP)—The Muslim Brotherhood [MB] accused the Egyptian Government on Monday [1 May] of stepping up a campaign to discredit the group through the media and by arresting its members.

"There's been a great escalation by the government on television against the Brotherhood in a horrible and completely untrue way," the Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi told AFP.

Government-controlled television is "deriding people and ideas," he added.

His comments came a day after President Husni Mubarak in a televised speech said "violence is always an integral part" of the Brotherhood's activities and accused it of turning the professional union which it controls into its political fiefdom.

Al-Hudaybi said the Brotherhood would respond with its own media campaign, adding "that is everyone's right to defend themselves with objectivity, decorum and clarity."

He said a Brotherhood statement released Monday which affirmed the fundamentalist group's condemnation of violence and its support for democracy and human rights was "to clarify and define our positions against these untrue accusations" by Mubarak.

The wives of 13 Brotherhood members arrested in the northern city of Alexandria on Saturday also released a communique on Monday calling for the "end of the oppression against our husbands."

They denied that their husbands were involved in militant activities, adding, "we fear they will be exposed to torture" while under arrest.

The communique included testimony by seven of the wives that police came to their homes in the night to arrest their husbands, most of whom were engineers and accountants, after searching the flats for papers and computer discs.

State security officials accused the Brotherhood members of stirring up "chaos and an atmosphere of instability" by planning anti-government demonstrations and distributing "agitative literature" at next week's Muslim holiday 'Id al-Adha.

The Interior Ministry announced that the arrests were part of its campaign to "extend the blows against terrorists to fundamentalist groups involved in supporting them with financing and publicity."

The Egyptian Government is battling an Islamic militant campaign of violence which has left 750 people dead since it was launched in March 1992.

Al-Hudaybi said the ministry accusations were "ludicrous and baseless. They are trying to justify groundless arrests."

He said the arrest of at least 48 Brotherhood members since the beginning of the year "was a continuing and planned operation" against the group.

He added that Mubarak's speech "was unfortunately full of incorrect information."

Mubarak "is getting all his information from one source with evil intentions," he said, calling on Mubarak to meet union leaders to discuss the role of the Brotherhood.

The Brotherhood, which was banned by former president Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir in 1954 but has long been tolerated because of its non-violent stand, plans on entering legislative elections later this year after boycotting them in 1990.

The group was founded in 1929 and calls for the implementation of Islamic shari'ah law in Egypt.

MB's Al-Hudaybi on Arrest of Members, Elections

NC2904205695 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Apr 95 p 7

[Interview with Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, official spokesman of the Muslim Brotherhood, by Muhammad Raghib; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Raghib] What are the reasons for the recent detentions of the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members?

[Al-Hudaybi] To my knowledge, the reasons given for the detentions and the accusations that some of the detained individuals promote violence are completely untrue. I am certain that none of these people has committed any acts of violence, either personally or by proxy, or backed any group linked to violence. The charges made against them are not based on any acceptable evidence. My guess is that these arrests were made because of the coming parliamentary or professional associations' elections.

[Raghib] You are accused of fomenting violence and of taking cover behind religious and social activity.

[Al-Hudaybi] Our creed is known; we have made it clear from the first day. Our programs have been known for more than 60 years. We cannot hide behind religious and social activities. Our religion incorporates tenets that relate to the political, social, and economic systems. Our religion orders us to try to promote and implement these tenets; and since we are doing this in the open, this means that we are not hiding. We are prepared to hold a dialogue or debate. We address the general public through wisdom and sound counsel, and whoever disagrees with us may say what he wants.

[Raghib] You are also accused of backing terrorism, and some MB members are accused of having received training on weapons abroad.

[Al-Hudaybi] It is not true that we support terrorism. We totally deny this accusation—for which there is no proof—because it is not part of our creed or principles. As for the alleged involvement of some of our members in weapons training abroad through the Relief Committee, we say that that committee is part of the Doctors Association. It operates under that association's laws and regulations. The committee has a government auditing representative to review all the committee's actions. It is not true that some MB individuals have hidden behind the committee's activity to get training on weapons abroad.

[Raghib] What is the MB's relationship with the Islamic currents at home and abroad?

[Al-Hudaybi] We have no relations with any Islamic current in Egypt with the exception of the Labor Party, with which we agree on the slogan "Islam is the solution." Other than that, we have no relationship with the Islamic Group, the Jihad Organization, or any other Islamic current either inside Egypt or abroad.

[Raghib] Your large representation in the associations and in the public arena disturbs the authorities. Do you plan to seize power?

[Al-Hudaybi] It is not true that we are intensifying our presence, nor do we interfere in the professional associations. As for power, the principle of the rotation of power is out of the question in Egypt under the current conditions. The maximum we can do in this regard is state our opinion on this matter; and that is the end of the issue.

[Raghib] The authorities are against you; is the MB against the authorities?

[Al-Hudaybi] We are supposed to demand that the authorities treat us as Egyptians, even if we disagree over principles and ideas, for agreement and disagreement are in the nature of life. However, this does not mean that we do not love our homeland or that we do not seek to promote its welfare. So long as the struggle between us and the authorities is about ideas and ideology and so long as it avoids violence or anything that may disturb public security and the security of the people, this is acceptable.

[Raghib] How could there be a breakthrough between you and the authorities.

[Al-Hudaybi] The solution is in the hands of the regime, which must respect the people's rights, safeguard the political and economic rights, and honor democratic principles. For our part, our group exists in the open. Once our group is legally and clearly recognized by the authorities, every member of the group will be personally identified and everything about him will be made known; and the authorities will be aware of any activity by the group and its members. Then, no one will be afraid of the group.

[Raghib] What is your position on the coming elections? Are you coordinating with the parties or individuals?

[Al-Hudaybi] The coming elections will be held on an individual basis. Thus, everything depends on the will of individuals. Coordination is difficult because there is no commitment. The last elections provided proof of this, when a large number of independent candidates won seats in the People's Assembly, but later they joined the National Democratic Party.

[Raghib] Generally speaking, what do you want, both inside and outside the Assembly?

[Al-Hudaybi] We, like all opposition parties, have general principles about public freedoms and the political system. We have previously joined parties and national forces in issuing several statements concerning elections, the freedom to establish parties and publish newspapers, and the emergency law and the economic laws. These are our demands, whether we are represented at the People's Assembly or not. They are all part of our principles dealing with the implementation of the Islamic shari'ah, including the political and economic systems, freedom, and human dignity.

MB's Political Platform Condemns Terrorism

NC0105174495 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, May 1 (AFP)—The Muslim Brotherhood [MB] on Monday [1 May] set out its political position focusing on the sensitive issues of terrorism and the status of Egypt's Christians ahead of general elections due in the autumn.

In a statement the Brotherhood stressed its opposition to violence, its commitment to democracy and support for the rights of Egypt's six million Coptic Christians.

The statement came the day after President Husni Mubarak attacked the group saying "violence is always an integral part" of its methods.

He also accused them of turning the profession unions which they control into political fiefdoms.

The Brotherhood said in its statement that Christians "have the same rights and responsibilities as Muslims as well as the same civil and political rights."

And it repeated "its refusal of violence and of all coercive methods which by nature tear apart the unity of the nation."

It said the group, which aims to set up a system of Islamic shari'ah law in Egypt, "is in no way involved in violence and denounces all forms of terrorism, calling on those who commit this sin to return to the correct path of Islam."

The Brotherhood also refuted "the unjust accusations made against it implicating it in violence and terrorism."

It underlined its "support of the democratic system," adding that it was "part" of the organized political opposition.

Banned in 1954, the Brotherhood has nevertheless long been tolerated because of its non-violent stand.

It has announced it will participate in this year's legislative elections despite having boycotted them along with most other opposition parties in 1990.

Mubarak has accused the Brotherhood of supporting armed Muslim extremists, whose battle against the government has left 750 dead since March 1992.

Since January, 48 members of the Islamist group have been arrested, the latest arrests being made on Saturday in Alexandria. Authorities have accused many of them of training militants abroad to carry out attacks in Egypt.

Muslim 'Militants' Shoot, Kill Police Informant

NC0205102195 Paris AFP in English 0836 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Minya, Egypt, May 2 (AFP)—Muslim militants shot dead an informant on Tuesday [2 May] as he headed to report at a security checkpoint near the town of Mallawi in south Egypt, police said.

Gunmen attacked Marzuq Muhammad 'Amr, 22, a farmer, as he approached the post manned by police on the lookout for Muslim militants in the fields surrounding Tunat al-Jabal village, 300 kilometers (180 miles) south of Cairo.

Police opened fire from their armored vehicle on the attackers, who escaped into the surrounding fields, police said.

The attack brought to 751 the number of people killed since March 1992 in the confrontation between police and Muslim militants aiming to overthrow the government.

Meanwhile on Monday night, police uncovered a cache of explosives on a train heading to al-Minya from Asyut further south, police said.

They uncovered the crate containing five hand-made bombs and two smoke grenades during a security sweep of the train and removed them upon arrival at al-Minya station, 250 kilometers (150 miles) south of Cairo.

Police added that the bombs were not set to explode and were probably being transported on the train.

Authorities have stepped up security on trains and in stations in south Egypt fearing dramatic attacks by militants after gunmen fired on an oil-tanker train near Mallawi on Sunday.

Muslim extremists have frequently targeted trains in south Egypt. In late March six people were killed and four others wounded in an ambush on a train in al-Minya province.

Mubarak Addresses Workers on Labor Day

NC3004121895 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0802 GMT 30 Apr 95

[Labor Day Speech by President Husni Mubarak in the Grand Conference Hall of the Central Authority for General Mobilization and Statistics in Madinat al-Nasr in Cairo—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate: Brothers and sisters, honorable Egyptian workers. On Labor Day today we celebrate every honest hand working in Egypt, a hand that grows good things, creates hope, and builds a strong homeland both in the present and for the future. A homeland whose hopes rise high with the efforts of loyal sons, who shoulder the burden of building the Egypt of the future, the Egypt of the 21st century.

On your day, work is combined with hope. They both embody the ambition of a great people, whose cultural role continues to complement the giving of great ancestors who invented agriculture, industry, and writing and built up great human edifices over history. These edifices reflect the nobility of the goal, the greatness of knowledge, the magnificence of performance, and the accuracy of proficiency.

On your day, the greatest value ever is being embodied. It is the value of work, God's recommendation to mankind. And say: Work righteously; soon will God observe your work, and His apostle, and the believers [Koranic verse]. Work is equal to faith and rightness. No other value has been given that special holiness by heavenly religions.

A word of tribute and affection on the day of labor and workers. A word of tribute to Egypt's honorable workers, the phalangists of glory and the soldiers of development, who build for Egypt a glorious present filled with accomplishments all over the homeland. These accomplishments draw the features of a new Egyptian Renaissance involving every Egyptian. A word of tribute to and pride in their generous efforts and honest sweat in huge factory wards, small workshops, over stretches of reclaimed land in the Egyptian desert, in the sites of new industrial communities in Upper Egypt and the Delta, and in many other locations across Egyptian coasts and deserts. These areas, which used to be barren wastelands, now flourish with great construction.

Brothers and sisters; I need not enumerate the great achievements in Egypt in the past few years thanks to many sincere efforts that merged together to make development a great national project based on individual initiatives rather on government efforts alone. This great achievement would not have come about without the contributions of the Egyptian workers, who backed without reservation the cause of employing all national resources in enhancing the homeland's capabilities and doubling its energies.

Egypt's honorable workers backed every national project that added to the country's energies. They assisted reform efforts in the public business sector establishments to help enhance their capability. In doing that, they relied on their deep belief that the genuine goal is ultimately the enhancement of the homeland's ability, opening new scopes for work to large numbers of young people and accelerating development rates to render the country more capable of satisfying the needs of its sons.

The unjust attempts at incitement did not succeed. These attempts falsely tried to describe reform efforts as a regression that threatens the rights and gains of workers. They tried to spread concern among the workers. However, Egypt's honorable workers realized through their true national awareness that reform is a necessity from which there is no escape and that it is in the interest of both the homeland and the workers. [applause and chanting] They realized that this reform is in the interest of Egypt and the workers and that no one will be harmed by it because preserving the rights of workers is one of the government's priorities and major responsibilities.

In fact, preserving the rights of workers was one of the biggest incentives that prompted us to overcome the problem of economic reform and shoulder its responsibilities, because without such reform everything could collapse and the most harmed group would be the workers. Egypt's workers preserved its properties, such as farms, factories, and institutions, out of their true conviction that protecting them is the same as protecting the capabilities and potential of the homeland. In addition, their activities are a continuation of their source of livelihood. Egypt's workers preserved the correct role for their unionist organizations, which continued to have a splendid national character expressing the viewpoints of all workers, not only a small group that has diverted from the national consensus.

Egypt's workers will not allow a small group to monopolize union activities [applause] or turn it into a branch of party activities because that would tear apart the unions and threaten their unity. Egypt's workers will not allow illegitimate political forces to apply incorrect methods on their unionist organizations, because that contains an implicit warning to the national character of union action and a violation of the sovereignty of the law.

The workers preserved the independence of their unionist organizations so that they continue to be fora that express the opinion of the masses of workers, away from party conflicts and problems. They realized the dangers of mixing union action with party action. Egypt's workers realized very early on that unionist activities are much more comprehensive and have greater scope than party activities because the union represents the interests of everyone, regardless of their party and political affiliations. Egypt's workers realized that if party activities take control of union activities, and if unions are turned into mere branches of political and party forces, then the interests of workers would be harmed, union action would be destroyed, and the democracy of unions would be threatened. This would turn unions into destructive arenas of conflict that are torn apart by fights and party quarrels.

Most likely, the only result will be to paralyze the unions and prevent them from offering the real services that the members need. Egypt's workers managed to safeguard the real role of their numerous organizations, beginning with the unionist committees and on to the Labor Federation, all of which played numerous positive roles in production issues. They loyally and wisely adopted a subjective viewpoint, which reflects the importance of balancing interests between the rights of workers and the interests of the institutions. They also preserved the bridges of joint trust between employees and employers. They adhered to dialogue as a civilized method to solve their problems. They seriously and responsibly participated in formulating and developing numerous legislation pertaining to work and production.

This civilized and distinguished behavior of Egypt's workers is a source of pride and optimism [applause] because their respect for the values of work, commitment to safeguarding the establishments where they work, and sincere affiliation with them is one of the most important factors of attraction of further investment in Egypt.

Brothers and sisters: The mistaken confusion of trade union and party activities in some unions compels us to warn against the seriousness of making trade union activity exclusive to a limited group that use unsound and undemocratic methods to take control of the board of directors in the absence of the majority of union members who are not given the real chance to elect their representatives. The only result of the control by this limited group has been the absence of democratic trade union activity in a number of our most important professional associations, the absence of fair distribution of trade union services, paralysis and fragmentation of the professional associations, and the squandering of their efforts in marginal issues that do not serve the interests of the members of these associations. Regrettably, this is happening in the professional associations that are most in need of the efforts of their boards of directors to promote main professions and constantly enrich the knowledge and expertise of their members.

Every professional, be he a doctor, engineer, lawyer, or any other, is looking forward to seeing his professional association play a responsible role that preserves the dignity and tradition of the profession and the rights of its members and promotes their knowledge and expertise so that they may cope with any new advances in the areas of their specialization. However, a number of the boards of directors of the professional associations have ignored this vital role and persisted in squandering their efforts on marginal issues and differences serving a limited number of people who represent illegal forces and aim at controlling the professional associations in Egypt and turning them into a political party.

Even stranger is that these people use democracy as a pretext to implement their schemes designed to remove other trade unionists and prevent them from participating in trade union activity through several means, reaching the point of using force and repression to continue their unilateral control of a number of the important professional associations. Unilateral control by any group of a professional association that includes thousands of members who belong to several diverse trends is undemocratic in letter and spirit because democracy means true representation of all trends and views so that a professional association's stance will truly express the stances of all its members and not merely reiterate the views and stances of an organized minority that managed to control the professional associations in the absence of its members. It is also strange that these boards of directors should resist increasing participation in elections so that the minority may continue their unilateral domination [applause]. They even resist the judiciary's supervision of the elections because this will put an end to unsound practices that prevent the majority of members from exercising their right to elect.

Brothers and sisters, Labor Day this year comes at a time when Egypt, through the sacrifices of valiant men, has succeeded in containing the terrorist phenomenon. The Egyptian security forces have succeeded in chasing the members of these groups [applause] until their activity has been reduced to isolated crimes in an Egyptian province. The heads have fallen, the hideouts have been uncovered, the schemes have been aborted, and the phenomenon has appeared in its real size. It is merely a matter of hired groups that have agreed to act as instruments of destruction in favor of foreign powers that do not want Egypt to live in stability and progress. You recall my call to you last May Day to put this phenomenon in its real perspective without overstating or understating it. I said: Nothing in this phenomenon calls for concern and suspicion, because it is a passing phenomenon that could have been uprooted in a short time. But we are careful to keep state procedures within the sound framework of respect for the law and the Constitution. Time has shown how sincere we are.

We may see some incidents like those isolated crimes that occur once in a while in small and remote areas of Egypt. But I can say in full confidence that last year terrorist groups suffered back- breaking blows that eradicated their infrastructure and smashed their criminal plan. What is happening today are mere reactions by panicked remnants trying to show they still exist.

However, we have to take into consideration a number of important facts:

1. These groups emerged under specific conditions to attempt the specific task of obstructing Egypt's beginning a new stage. Three years ago, we were about to emerge from the economic bottleneck. All signs confirmed that our national economy had overcome its predicament and was on the verge of a new stage. These groups emerged in that climate and intended to strike out at Egyptian tourism and investment. They achieved their strength as part of a foreign scheme that sought to destroy Egypt's stability and chances of progress. This means that the parties that sought that goal might try again, unless we arm ourselves with vigilance. Many foreign powers are annoyed at seeing a stronger and more capable Egypt.

2. We regret that a few domestic hypocrites have not concealed their sympathy with these groups in spite of the broad popular condemnation of their crimes and the demand to uproot them. These parties used the democratic climate to spread untrue reports—reports they fabricated—about the abuse of these groups rights. These things call for greater vigilance because the hypocrites are even more dangerous, because a blighted tree never grows good branches, and because those who stand to benefit from harming Egypt will try again. But we are alert to their actions [applause].

We would have hoped that the same amount of attention would have been paid to the human rights of the simple Egyptian citizen. The citizen has suffered harm to his livelihood, property, and children because of the crimes of the terrorist groups, who have damaged the livelihoods of people, destroyed the security in the Egyptian streets, and hit many innocent people who are blameless and harmless. Let those people know that the regime refrains from and is far above abusing the dignity of any citizen, regardless of his crime. We leave punishment to the law. Let those people know that we all care dearly about the rights of Egyptian citizens. We do our utmost to secure a safe homeland, beneficial work, and a decent income for Egyptian citizens. We protect their honor, property, and security from criminal groups whose souls are so controlled by evil that they sanction prohibited things and approve of betraying their kinsfolk and homeland.

I salute the courageous policemen [applause], who have managed to abort a vile conspiracy the objective of which was to destroy Egypt's hope. I salute their huge successes, which could not have occurred without the formidable sacrifices that only real men can make. I salute their alert steadfastness in preserving the properties of the homeland and its stability and defending the security of every Egyptian. What has recently attracted attention and caused astonishment is the increase in the rabid campaigns of defamation and abuse, the objective of which is to cast doubts on every official and every accomplishment through false accusations and distorted facts; this is accomplished through rumors that are deliberately spread by groups we know well. Although most of these rumors cannot stand up to any simple test of logic, they are spread for reasons that are no secret to anyone. We used to consider this phenomenon one of the problems of democracy in a society where the traditions of political and party activities were dormant for a long time. However, it is clear that we are faced with an organized campaign orchestrated by groups and forces whose sly intentions and real motives we know very well. We know that among their motives is justifying the crimes of the mercenary terrorist groups, poisoning the atmosphere of trust in society, spreading despair among the youth, personally insulting officials, and distorting any national accomplishment.

Our position on this issue is clear. It can be summarized in a few well-known principles. The first of these is that clean government will continue to be a true commitment from which we shall not swerve [applause], nor shall we forgo it. However, we shall not punish anyone for baseless accusations that lack grounds or proof. We shall not allow ourselves to use the authority of the executive branch on an issue that is the purview of Egypt's just and fair judiciary.

The second principle is that we have an independent judiciary and investigative organs. Anyone who has specific facts pertaining to corruption can go to these organs with reports and complaints.

The third principle is that corruption in Egypt—despite the flood of biased and false rumors—is still restricted to a few cases. No society in the world can avoid a minimal number of cases, because we are humans who make mistakes as well as have successes. Among us are many honest people who follow God's teachings in their behavior, while others without consciences put their personal interests before the interests of the homeland.

Brothers and sisters, we are waging a battle for progress amid very difficult international conditions that require that we concentrate all our energies on construction. There is no time to waste. We are only five years away from a new century when developing nations are racing to eliminate poverty and backwardness and are seeking development and progress. There is no room for diversionary battles that distract us from our goals. We need to rely on ourselves now more than ever if we want a homeland capable of protecting the independence of its individuals and shouldering the burdens of development and progress.

I believe that coming generations will not forget any laxness on our part, because conditions are now favorable and we have already accomplished a great deal of work that provides a solid foundation for a new stage that will see us rise into the ranks of the developed states with high development rates that break down the walls of poverty and backwardness.

The only way we can do this is to build a more disciplined society that values work above all, balances rights and duties, and realizes that democracy has sound rules that help us to make progress rather than hinder it.

Brothers and sisters, I do not oppose those who say that we need more democracy. Are you listening Musatafa [addressing Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad] [laughter and applause] I am not against those who say we need more democracy. Mind you, we do not mean selling more hajj visas. [laughter and applause] What I am saying is that we need more discipline as well. Democracy is not the antonym of discipline, since democracy is ultimately the framework of a political regime whose first task is to release and organize the constructive and creative energies in society and give every citizen a chance to give his best.

Democracy is not a confusion of ambitions, demands, and behavior. The development experience in a number of Asian states that have managed to break down the barriers of poverty and backwardness shows that discipline is a major factor in their success. Discipline preserved these communities' cohesion and unity and allowed them to concentrate on their objectives, while maintaining a strong state role in enforcing the law and defending social peace. It also successfully balanced the needs of political progress and economic development.

We are not calling for restrictions on freedoms, nor do we demand new laws. We ask all our legitimate national parties to commit themselves to maintaining cohesion on the domestic front and enhancing national solidarity. Some will try in every way possible to unravel the homeland's solidarity. They have tried to import sectarian strife into a country traditionally characterized by tolerance, and they want to bring terrorism into a homeland that rejects violence. They will try again and again to block Egypt from reaching its goal of revival and progress.

Egypt's most precious attributes are its unity, national solidarity, its growing awareness of the interrelated interests of its people, and its mature care in investing every national drive and effort. All these things are basic strengths in the battle for development and construction, which should be protected through firm commitment to the rules of legitimacy and the provisions of the law.

Let it be clear that we approve of any legitimate, clean opposition that operates in the open and respects the law and the Constitution. We are never bothered by differences in views and positions, because without opposition no real democratic system can exist. However, we warn against illegitimate groups accustomed to working in the dark. Violence still plays an essential part in these groups' psyches and political approaches. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, we are approaching the elections for the People's Assembly and Consultative Council. We want these elections to be an honest competition among candidates that abide by the rules of good conduct, eschew violent and vituperative campaigns, and create no strife or problems that disrupt ties among brothers.

For years we have viewed May Day as a day of work when we review our past accomplishments to draw from these success the proper incentives to help us continue our march and learn from our failures lessons that help correct them. In all cases, we were true to our word, sincere in our quests, and manly in facing problems because we were sincere to God in our work and sought only to serve the homeland's interests.

We might not have achieved all we set out to do, but we are stronger than before and capable of further progress despite the adverse international conditions and the natural disaster that confronted us in the form of heavy rains in some Upper Egypt governorates.

The growth rate increased in all productive sectors, but it still has not reached the target. Investments flowed in to all the sectors, but we can attract still more. The long arm of reconstruction has reached into many new areas, but we still need more balanced development that pays attention to the more crowded and less fortunate Egyptian regions. Our commodity exports increased and reached new world markets, but we are still at the beginning of a difficult road that requires great skill, precise commitments, and an insistence on good quality so we will be able to compete in a difficult and complex world market.

You may recall that last May Day we laid out an ambitious national goal for ourselves. That goal required an annual increase in development rates double the rate of population growth. We needed a 5 percent growth rate per year, increasing annually to reach at least 7 percent per annum by the end of this century.

The Gross National Product [GNP] has risen from 134.3 billion Egyptian pounds in 1992-93 to 139.6 billion in 1993-94. [remark from the audience: "This is too little" to which Mubarak's next sentence responds] You'd better dream on. [laughter and applause]

Hence we have achieved a real development growth of 3.9 percent. It is expected to rise to 145.9 billion pounds for a real growth rate estimated at 4.5 percent during the current year.

Viewing the industrial sector as the cornerstone of a continuous development that meets our national ambition to provide half a million job opportunities every year, we expect further flourishing in this sector, raising the GNP growth rate to three times the rate of population growth as of the 1995-96 development plan. This means approximately a 9-percent annual growth rate in the industrial sector. This figure has become attainable because for over a decade we made strenuous and constant efforts to upgrade the productive foundation, prepare the necessary infrastructure, and implement a successful fiscal reform that fostered a favorable atmosphere for sound economic policies that attracted more investments.

This confidence is strengthened and asserted by the remarkable, unprecedented influx of investment to the various production sectors in Egypt. Actual private investments have risen from 14.5 billion pounds in 1992-1993 to 18.5 billion pounds—we no longer talk about millions, which now seem like small change, like coins. This figure is expected to rise to approximately 21 billion pounds in 1994-1995. These results were achieved because we insistently sought to encourage investment of our native capital in our own country, and because we created a new climate of confidence that helped Egyptian capital abroad to return. We also invited Arab capital to consider Egypt as a second homeland, where it gets the security it wishes and makes good profits. We have also offered all facilities to international capital to attract it and to place Egypt on the international investment map.

The results this year were encouraging and promising, enhancing self-confidence and giving optimistic indications for the coming years. In just the past year, through the Investment Authority alone the industrial sector saw a total influx of approximately 4 billion pounds for the establishment of 302 new industrial projects. More than 9 billion pounds were also invested to initiate 415 new industrial projects from 1 July 1994 to the end of March 1995.

Some people say: But why do you exempt these people and companies from taxes? Mustafa Murad [leader of the opposition Liberal Party] does not want to exempt anyone from taxes. But what would this mean? If you do not give them [investors] tax exemptions, they will lose money. But I give them tax exemptions because I want them to support households; this is more important than taxes to me. I give them a break; I encourage them. I should not be stubborn about these things. I give them 10 years to get on their feet. An investor might open a factory, create jobs for 100, 200, 300, 400 people. Take the business sector, Pepsi Cola for instance. It had 4,000 workers. It was privatized, as they say—and we will discuss privatization later—now it has 5,000 or more workers. So this privatization is not a burden for the people. We must be aware of this. We are concerned about our people. They are our children and brothers. We must take care of them.

These growth figures stress that Egypt is approaching a major industrial boom that all of us should correctly care for. We should help every serious investor and remove the obstacles in his way and assist him in his efforts to improve production quality and to export products around the world.

Brothers and sisters, we started by offering some incentives to the industrial sector. Those were limited to a number of tax and customs breaks. This was followed by lifting restrictions on investment in the production sector. And this year, we decided to offer free land for every industrial project built in the new industrial zones in the governorates of Upper Egypt.

While local production rose to about 139.6 billion pounds last year and achieved a growth rate of about 3.9 percent, wages and pensions rose to 17.5 billion pounds. In 1982, wages and pensions totalled 2.3 billion pounds. In the budget (?that will be presented)—we have not finished it yet—the figure is 17.5 billion pounds. In the budget that the People's Assembly discussed the figure was 20 billion pounds. So, that figure rose from 2.3 billion to 20 pillion. This is a massive amount.

Increasing growth rates to reach our targets will certainly increase incomes. Our development goal is not only to increase the growth rate in the GNP but also to give the workers their fair share of this increase.

Man is the center and creator of development. Development loses its justifications if it is not oriented toward man and does not seek primarily to improve the living conditions of those who shoulder its burdens, particularly the workers, who are the soldiers of production, the builders of the present and the future, and Egypt's hope for a bright future.

Brothers and sisters, we pin great hopes on developing Egyptian industry, which is the basis for the coming stage of production. This should be combined with a strong impetus to agricultural development projects that focus on improving the productivity of areas already under cultivation and launching infrastructure projects for 1.4 million feddans, half of which will be added to the cultivated area by the end of the third five-year plan. The Egyptian agriculture has made a breakthrough in the past few years. Grain crops have doubled, reaching 16 million tons. A few years ago the crop was 8 million tons and we had to import the rest. With development we have reached 16 million tons. While we still depend on foreign states for imports of a percentage of some foodstuffs due to the high population growth and the limits of the cultivated areas, we believe that wise investment in the new lands currently being reclaimed in Sinai, the Delta, central and Upper Egypt, and al-Wadi al-Jadid can solve this problem. All these new areas can be transformed into free zones of intensive and modern agriculture specializing in valuable agricultural exports. This will help achieve a balance in our foodstuff imports.

Brothers and sisters, last year witnessed an unprecedented increase in the volume of investments that flowed into the various productive sectors. It also witnessed a growing influx of transfers by Egyptian expatriates. This confirms the Egyptian citizen's growing confidence in the national economy and his faith that Egypt has become a safe place for his and other people's savings. This means that the Egyptian citizen has more faith in his national economy and currency as well as in the performance of Egyptian banks.

Last year witnessed yet another positive development in the march of our national economy. Our total exports increased from 7.405 billion pounds in the first nine months of 1993 to 9.143 billions during the same period of 1994. This constitutes a 23.5 percent rate of increase. Although we seek higher rates, we view this as the beginning of an export revival that we expect to continue and grow in next few years. Our expectations rely on the following facts:

1. We have huge productive capacities ready for operation that can double production in terms of quantity and quality without much additional investment. Furthermore, many industries are in the process of being established. These will raise the rates of industrial exports, so that we can achieve a concrete increase in our industrial exports before year end. This increase could reach $1 billion per year, provided that we raise the quality to levels consonant with the ferocious competition in the world market.

2. We have well-trained workers who are able to acquire new skills and adapt to modern production systems. Egyptian workers at several recently established multinational factories in Egypt attained a global standard of performance only six months after they began work. International experts have testified that these workers are able to turn out distinctive, flawless products and respond to fast-breaking work situations. These are medals of honor for our workers, who are building up a prosperous Egypt. [applause]

A prominent feature of our political activity was to develop our relations with other countries for the benefit of Egypt's national interests. Via the bridges of trust which we established with dozens of countries, we concluded many trade agreements that opened up new international markets for Egyptian products and helped us to recover markets which we had previously lost in Europe, the United States, Canada, Japan, and several other Asian countries .

Brothers, sisters, the persistent economic development efforts since the beginning of the first five-year plan in 1982-1987 involved the implementation of a purely investment program in which the public and private sectors cooperated to develop all production and services spheres at a cost of 286 billion pounds. Of this total, 141 billion pounds were used for building the infrastructure and 140.5 billion for modernizing and upgrading production machinery. Previously the investment burden was almost totally shouldered by the government but now the private sector has entered as a partner. By 1994-1995 its share of the investments had risen to more than 47 percent.

Investments in the industry and renovation sector amounted to about 59 billion pounds. This sum was used to modernize and replace machinery, upgrade existing factories, and improve the technology employed in the manufacture of basic commodities for local consumption and for export This was accomplished by the public business sector and also by private sector initiatives. Small and subsidiary industries have proliferated. Egyptian manufacturing has gradually acquired the proficiency that has enabled it to produce many commodities that were formerly imported from abroad.

While focusing on the production sector, it was also important to develop the energy sector to ensure a parallel growth of both industrial production and the general services. Thus, investments in oil and electricity over the past 13 years have amounted to about 58.6 billion pounds. This enabled us to meet the ever-growing domestic needs and at the same time preserve the proven petroleum and natural gas reserves. Electric power production was increased to a level sufficient for domestic needs, with a surplus greater than that which existed in 1981-1982. In 1981-1982, after 75 years of production, we had 18 billion kilowatt hours. In the next economic development plan we will have 78 billion kilowatt hours. We did this in about 13 or 14 years.

Investments in the transport and communications sector amounted to 53.5 billion pounds. This was used to build new roads and to upgrade railroads, the Cairo subway, maritime and air transport, and the handling capacity of our ports. The current capacity of the ports is more than triple what it was in 1981-1982.

All this has been complemented by upgrading the capacity of the general services. The share of the housing and contractor sectors was about 35 billion pounds. The share of drinking water networks and sewage facilities was about 22 billion pounds. More must be spent because many new areas in the republic need to have these services upgraded so that no populated area will be left without such services.

The appropriations for the general education in the current year amount to 1.5 billion pounds. Needless to say, the entire current appropriations for education in the 1994-95 budget amounts to 9 billion pounds for that one year.

Regarding the health services sector, the appropriations amount to 6 billion pounds. You may say this is not enough. But we are increasing it in order to complete the construction of hospitals and procure the necessary equipment. The annual investment in this sector amounts to more than 500 million pounds. All this clearly demonstrates that the circumstances will be favorable in the future to improve the local products and productivity. This will depend on the great assets of the infrastructure and the modern production and services base as well as on the positive participation of the public and private sectors.

I do not need to repeat that population growth will indeed affect society and the development plans. I do not know what to tell you. We must be patient. There is nothing but patience. [laughter] When I first took office, the population of Egypt was 43 million. Today, the population of Egypt is 60 million. [applause] May God guide your steps. We got exhausted with running. [laughter] The difference of 17 million is equal to the populations of five or six of our neighboring countries. But we do not have all their resources. But, praise be to God, we can manage. However, we must take into consideration the family planning program; otherwise, in 15 or 20 years we will be like those countries that cannot feed their children or even find them jobs. We must start work now. We also must be serious. Everything has a limit. We must spend within our budget.

This population increase places demands on the services sector. The services sector should be expanded to the point that it can face this increase. Also, preparing for the necessary work expected due to the increase in population requires that the social service be promoted. By social services we mean education and the health services. Work on constructing schools will continue. We build between 1,500 and 7,000 schools every year. This was not the case before. When a school was built in the past, the minister and the prime minister used to attend the inauguration ceremony. But now if was done, the minister and the prime minister would do nothing else. [laughter] We are running to make up for what we missed doing during an era of wars. There were no development and construction projects during that era. Or do you have another solution, Mustafa? [laughter, applause]

We must complete the electrification of the villages and their environs. We also must extend the drinking water pipes and sewage system to all the populated areas, particularly the governorates of Upper Egypt, because the population for whom such services are needed is expected to increase by 95 percent during the first decade of the next century.

Therefore, the investments which will be earmarked for the utilities project during the remaining years of the current five- year plan, which ends in 1997, will be more than 9 billion pounds. These are astronomical figures.

Brothers and sisters, during the past 10 years, we instituted several developments projects in many governorates which had long suffered unjust geographical distribution in the development plans. Our objective was to redistribute the fruits of development among the various parts of the republic in a new map. Our aim was to extend the construction projects outside the narrow strip of this [Nile] valley, which had no resources and suffered from population density and a limited agricultural area.

We built a number of infrastructure projects south of Egypt and Sinai. This is a prelude toward a comprehensive development plan that would focus on these two regions. This plan will include the construction of a huge national project that will cost tens of billions of pounds. These projects will raise the standards of living and open new horizons for a regional development based on expanding the bases of production, transferring the new population's activities outside the one narrow valley, increasing transportation and communications efficiency, and confronting the severe shortcomings in the fields of education, health, and cultural services in these areas.

These two ambitious projects will cost us a huge amount in national investments in the context of a timetable beginning in 1995 and will take the form of successive five-year plans that will continue until 2017. While estimates show that the national plan to develop Sinai will cost approximately 75 billion pounds, the investments required for the national plan to develop southern Egypt will require almost the same amount.

This past year witnessed the beginning of this huge reconstruction. Work started in 10 industrial zones in Sinai and the Upper Egypt governorates. This is in addition to the zones already established in new communities in Upper Egypt. The beginning was very encouraging. Hundreds of investors applied for land to build projects in al-Minya, Asyut, Qina, and Aswan.

This year will witness the completion of the construction and opening of the Isna barrage. Do you know how much that project cost? Some 660 million pounds, not 50 million. In terms of size and output, this is the biggest water project to be built in Egypt after the High Dam to control the Nile waters and enhance the efficiency of these applications, in addition to the generation of electricity.

This year also witnessed the completion of the double railway line. That line used to extend from Cairo to Asyut. It now reaches Luxor and Idfu and will later be extended to Aswan. This is in addition to railways that were built between Safajah and Qina. There is also the Abu-Tartur railway line and another line in the north. There is a big revival required for the development process.

Feasibility studies for the natural gas pipeline between Cairo and Aswan will also be completed. It will also cross all major power stations and industrial areas in Upper Egypt. If the studies prove the feasibility of the project and the costs are determined, the necessary funds will immediately be raised to complete the project as soon as possible.

Brothers and sisters; as much as these accomplishments inspire optimism, they burden us with added pressures and responsibilities to speed up the pace in pursuit of a stage of reviving production. Our goal is an annual growth rate that is at least twice the population growth rate. This means that we should achieve 5 percent per annum growth in the GNP, to rise to 7.5 percent after the year 2000.

This is our real challenge: To joining forces to double the job opportunities available to our sons and the coming generations and to upgrade the living conditions of all levels of society. I believe that we can realize this goal now that the road has been smoothed. We have security, safety, and stability. We have an infrastructure capable of satisfying the needs of productive sectors. We have clear-cut economic policies that encourage participation. We have abundant liquidity and a constant increase in savings. We have a broad labor base capable of coping. [applause] Above all, we have the will power of a great people capable of making miracles. The people want to see serious action. There is no room for further studies and discussions. The goal has been defined and the cause is clear. What we need to do is determine the responsibility of each party, agree on the programs and timetables for implementing projects, and make everyone accountable for results. I believe that the responsibility should be shared by four parties, and each should take his equal share: The state, represented by the government and legislative establishments; entrepreneurs; trade organizations; and the leaders who occupy management positions and control implementation and guidance.

1. The state's responsibilities: It is to help provide a favorable atmosphere for participation. The state provides incentives, eliminates obstacles, and assists modernization, upgrading, and creative efforts.

2. The entrepreneurs' responsibility: They deal with enhancing production and improving quality. This is not the responsibility of the state alone. Owners and leading cadres of Medium and large project have a major responsibility to implement this program.

3. The trade organizations' responsibility: Egypt's workers are the third and important component responsible for achieving the desired increase in the output of existing projects and for utilizing Egyptian resources. One of the facts history tells us is that Egypt's loyal workers have undertaken a major role in developing production in all stages. The Egyptian Labor Federation, trade unions, and their national cadres have contributed to laying the foundations for production. They gained

experience that qualifies them for further construction. Trade unions have taken part in developing a just and balanced formula for work relations that have led to the desired stability of development [applause].

4. Management's responsibility: A great part of the responsibility should also be shouldered by the administrative leaders of our national establishments. They should bear responsibility for continuously evaluating their products and comparing them with competing products, not just from Egypt but also from all world markets. The leaders of tomorrow must perform differently than the leaders of yesterday. Their performance and distinction are closely linked to their ability to make their products competitive on world markets, characterized by good quality and reduced cost. This cannot be achieved unless these leaders are convinced of the need to assign groups of technicians and researchers to study the status of the establishments, compare them with better ones, and draft and implement quality control programs that help these establishments work for perfection.

We bear the responsibility of intensifying efforts to utilize the capabilities of all sectors. This approach represents a speedy and effective method for increasing production and strengthening the competitiveness of products. We must do that before we establish new projects and before we decide on additional investments and look for ways to fund them, as long as we can achieve this through better operations, longer working hours, and access to more markets.

Brothers and sisters, we are waging the battle of progress amid very difficult international conditions in which the wills of nations intertwine, the power of international decisions grows, and excuses for interfering in the affairs of others proliferate under new names and categories. All these are important and serious indications that we must be wise and alert and increasingly depend on ourselves while promoting the homeland's unity and cohesion. No consideration will prevent us from standing firm in defense of Egypt's national interests, and no foreign force will be able to impose on us anything counter to Egypt's interests. We do not aspire to or seek a clash with anyone. But we insist on preserving Egypt as a capable homeland, safeguarding its right to independent decision-making, [applause] rejecting interference in the affairs of others and the interference of others in its own affairs, assuming its role and responsibility within the Arab, African, and Middle Eastern worlds without guardianship from anyone, and seeking relations of equality and cooperation with everybody while resisting all forms of hegemony and domination, rejecting double standards, respecting legitimacy and the law, and insisting on a just and comprehensive peace and equal security for all. [applause]

In all this, we sincerely salute our sons in the Armed Forces, both officers and soldiers. [applause] They are the protectors of the homeland, the shield of its security and stability, its alert eye on its border, and the defenders of its sacred soil and the right of its sons to a free, independent, and dignified life among nations. Obstacles and challenges will not prevent us from seeking our just objectives. We enjoy a glorious militant history for the sake of glory and progress, and we possess a solid will derived from the solidity of a genuine people capable of confronting the strongest of challenges.

The world is quickly approaching a new age in which the gap is growing between those who possess the tools of progress and those who move sluggishly on this road. In the coming age there will be no middle point between backwardness and progress in the nations' race to a better future for their peoples.

Many peoples of our Third World have managed to break down the barriers of backwardness and poverty; they have become developed countries and joined the convoy of progress. In this context, I asked our friends in Japan during my recent visit there to assist us in specific areas which I consider necessary to speed up our development efforts. I asked fro the establishment of cooperation between Japanese business establishments and Egyptian companies in order to utilize our resources that have not yet been invested in the best way. I also asked Japan's assistance in transferring modern means of production to help activate our industrial exports. I found a good response and favorable reaction. It is our responsibility to follow up on this initiative until it becomes a reality.

The United States—our thanks to it—also responded to our desire to build bridges of cooperation between U.S. and Egyptian companies to learn how to boost production, upgrade quality, and develop new regions for projects that use and promote modern technology. Is it not that, as some say, they [the Americans] are coming to colonize us? What colonization? Colonization ended a long time ago. What colonization? We must benefit; they benefit and we benefit. If you do not want to benefit, sit down and do nothing; it is cheaper. There is no need for one to trouble himself and tour the far@corners of the world if, whenever we do something, you say: they are coming to colonize us, to eat us, and so on. Are we dead bodies so that they can colonize us? This is really strange. Why did they not say that Japan wants to colonize us? Such people are only trying to stop progress. The wheel of progress will not stop, whether under me or anyone else. No one can stop the wheel; it is turning.

We agreed [with the Americans] on establishing new mechanisms to achieve this cooperation; it will be based on equal contributions that provides mutual benefits and places relations between the two countries in the proper framework characterized by stability and firmness.

We are not less capable than those developing countries that have taken a major industrial and agricultural leap in the past few decades. We possess all the necessary resources to make us partners in the march of human progress as it takes its first steps toward the 21st century.

We are a great nation which grows stronger in the face of challenges and which is nurtured by the values of a tolerant religion that encourages virtue and hard work. This nation's history is full of great achievements of which all humanity is proud. Its present is inspired by a new spirit of initiative and development. We have a work force that possesses diverse talents and rare skills that are perhaps not found in many other countries. We have scientists, thinkers, experts, and innovators in very field. We have a unique geographical location at the center of the world that gives Egypt a special character difficult to imitate. Our country has various resources, the most valuable of which is the Egyptian individual, the builder of civilization and history and the pioneer of progress.

What is it that we lack to make us partners in the process of human progress and to enable us to surmount the barrier of poverty and backwardness? Many other nations who have surmounted this barrier before us are now getting a greater share of the global trade and playing a larger role in scientific progress.

We had all the resources but not the favorable circumstances to enable us to use these resources in such a way as to achieve Egypt's desired revival. We now have these circumstances. We have peace that we must be anxious to preserve and not relinquish so that it will become comprehensive and fair and achieve security for all parties.

We have a clear vision that will keep us from going astray in the maze of conflicting ways that might sap our efforts. We have a sound policy that will enable us to properly exploit our available resources. We have the benefit of the lessons learned from our past experiences, which taught us that society makes progress when the whole nation participates in the effort, not the government alone. They also taught us that profit incentives, market laws, personal initiative, and an active role by the private sector are vital factors that must not be wasted by any society that wants to exploit all its resources. They taught us that a sound democracy does not merely consist of a multiparty system and a free press, but that above all democracy means responsible commitment to the rule of law, respect for the borderline separating what is legal from what is not, preserving society's unity and social peace, and accepting a balance of duties and rights. Without these rules, a chaos will prevail that will destroy rather than build.

Our experiences have taught us that reform must be complete and reach down to the roots, that it must remedy the core of the problem, and that sound priorities must be clearly set out without the distracting noise of empty slogans. We learned that the decisions by the state must reflect the wishes of the public, be scientifically objective in outlook, and place the interests of the nation above all other considerations.

We have no excuses after today. We have the resources and favorable circumstances. We know very well that no one else can perform the task on our behalf. The progress of nations hinges on their efforts, hard work, and commitment to the requirements of progress.

From now on we have no excuses because we have the potential resources and the conditions and because we certainly know that no other party can undertake this task on our behalf. The progress of nations is dependent on their efforts, work, and commitment to the responsibilities of progress. Aid from brothers and friends is necessarily temporary and is also no more than an auxiliary factor that helps along the way. The people's effort, work, self-reliance, and insistence on accepting the challenges remain the principal factor.

I was watching television this morning and I saw the hosts on the "Good Morning Egypt" program interviewing some of the brothers here. Some of them said they were troubled by the economic reforms. Economic reforms should not trouble anyone. We are altering our course. You remember what our conditions were before we started the reforms. We were heading toward the abyss. Economic reforms do not mean depriving anyone of his livelihood; absolutely not. Our responsibility is to create jobs and enable people to earn a livelihood. No one should be troubled by the economic reforms. We have as firm control of it as we can get. Let everyone be assured of this.

Another thing I heard this morning was about the ratio of workers and farmers. They constitute more than half the country, and the ladies too. [laughter and applause] Who said that we would change the ratio of workers and farmers? This is the first I have heard of it. If the papers say it, it is only for sensationalism. [applause] They are testing your reactions. Do not be afraid, as this ratio will not be changed as long I am here. [applause] Maybe a small minority might not like this, but this is the reality. [chants of support for Mubarak]

Let me tell you a funny story before I finish. A person filed suit against me in a court some time ago. [laughter] He wanted it to order me to attend his humble birthday party at the Hilton Hotel. [laughter] With due respect to him, what does a humble party at the Hilton mean? [laughter] With due respect, I cannot attend birthday parties because if I do so, then I will have to attend such parties daily and therefore stop working and become the president of parties, etc. [laughter] I told him: Thank you. I wish you long life. It was a real case; he paid the fees and went to court. He also filed suit against the People's Assembly speaker and the prime minister. He wanted them to attend the party by court order. We will let the court decide and we will comply with any verdict it renders. [laughter]

Brothers and sisters, we have made sincere and strenuous efforts to rebuild a homeland beleaguered by a grave fate that burdened it, impeded its progress, and lengthened the distance to its proper objectives. We sincerely tried to restore a just peace to the homeland that protects rights and dignity and insists on equitable security. We struggled patiently and with all our hearts to let the banners of peace flutter over the whole region so that the reconstruction process can continue, confident of a secure future that is not threatened by destruction or war. Fate brought us some obstacles, but the cycle is never reversed and history never reverts to the past in response to the illegitimate ambitions of some people. We worked long and hard so that the development process can continue in a stable and secure atmosphere. We have confronted very firmly all the violent and terrorist groups that want to destroy the people's and homeland's interests. We promised that Egypt will remain a safe and stable homeland for all its sons and its visitors.

I thank God for helping us to foil the mercenaries' deceptions with the determination of a great people, to turn back the winds of sedition, and to uproot terrorism. I thank God because the ship has now reached the shore and because the road has become clear, safe, and smooth. No, no faithful person can now miss it. I also thank God because we have succeeded in laying down the right foundations for a renaissance that will continue until it reaches its objectives because it rests on the shoulders of a whole people who have known the way to progress and reconstruction. I thank God for giving us the determination and the strong faith so that we can remain loyal to the values of this great people, work for the homeland's interests tirelessly and without deviation, give everyone his due without fearing anyone's blame, and open the door to all sincere advice that aims to serve the homeland's interests.

I pray to God Almighty to guide us, give us wisdom, and show us the right steps. He is the best to protect and the best to help. [Koranic verse] God's peace and mercy be with you. [applause]

Libya

Commentary Criticizes Clinton Move Against Iran

LD0105230295 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The U.S. President chose the conference of world Jewry as the occasion to announce the imposition of economic measures against Iran and to incite Russia and the Western European states to halt economic cooperation with it. [passage omitted]

The U.S. President did not fail to repeat before the conference of world Jewry the U.S. claims accusing Libya [as heard] of endeavoring to obtain nuclear weapons. The U.S. President added that he will announce a complete halt to investments and trade exchanges with Iran with the aim of preventing an Iranian-Russian nuclear agreement.

The U.S. President's choice of the conference of world Jewry reveals that he has not yet recovered from the great shock and the difficult situation which the United States is experiencing as a result of the Oklahoma explosion and the impasse in which the U.S. government found itself after strong indications appeared of similar violent reactions to the policy of his government, which reflect the state in which the U.S. President lives in the hell of the United States.

The U.S. President's choice of the timing and place for making this announcement—before the conference of world Jewry—confirms that what was contained in this announcement is a step in the wrong direction, since it represents the dilemma of drowning irrevocably in an abyss of violence, terrorism, and crime and the violent mass reactions with which U.S. society is bubbling over.

On the other hand, bypassing the authority of the U.S. Congress can only be carried out through an emergency measure which constitutionally exempts the U.S. President from going back to Congress to face it, which means that the dilemma has begun to get really serious and that the United States has indeed become a Hell, to the extent that the U.S. President does not distinguish between states which possess nuclear weapons which are forbidden internationally and states which do not possess these weapons.

In front of the conference of world Jewry, it is doubtless impossible for him to pretend that he has forgotten that the Israelis openly admitted that they possess this type of weapon and that the United States is the prime sponsor for the growth of this Israeli terror in the whole Arab region. But for the unlimited U.S.-Western support for the Israelis, they would not have been so bold as to stockpile huge numbers of nuclear weapons in occupied Palestine.

Does the U.S. President pretend to have forgotten that? Can he continue to have double standards and cover the truth with the U.S. sieve, which has become feebleminded from within? [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Hails al-Qurdabiyah Anniversary

LD3004104695 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1740 GMT 29 Apr 95

[Speech by leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a rally in al-Qurdabiyah marking the 80th anniversary of the battle fought there against the Italians—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, brothers: Less than a month after our people marked the 80th anniversary of the Wadi Marsit battle, a battle that destroyed the enemy's hope of advancing deep into our country, our people are now marking the historic, great, and immortal battle of al—Qurdabiyah. We seek God's mercy on the souls of our fathers and forefathers who were martyrs in this immortal battle.

This soil on which we are standing at this moment is soil which has been moistened by the dear blood of our martyred forefathers. [passage indistinct] The al-Qurdabiyah battle is the major national battle in which our fathers and forefathers from Butnan and al-Jabal al-Akhdar, Zouara, and the al-Jabal al-Gharbi and Fezzan took part. At this spot our fathers and forefathers inflicted another major and historic defeat on the hordes of the unjust Italian invaders.

When we mark the 80th anniversary of the historic and immortal al-Qurdabiyah battle, we derive the resolution, strength, and ammunition to confront the enemy of today and tomorrow. We are inspired by the valor and gallantry of our fathers and forefathers which give us ammunition and strength. We are their sons and grandsons.

We want to tell them that we, the sons of the heroes, martyrs, and mujahidin of the al-Qurdabiyah battle can never disfigure or abuse this glorious page written by our fathers and forefathers in the history of our nation. We can never be followers and underlings nor can we relent or run away from confronting the new challenges.

We say to the United States, to U.S. allies, and to U.S. underlings in the Arab region that when our fathers and forefathers fought the battle of al-Qurdabiyah they did not rely on a major power, they did not strike an alliance with anyone, nor did they have the power capable of facing Italy's power. But they had faith, resolution, and courage, and these were the qualities that shattered the arrogance of the Italians and that destroyed the Italian hordes in this area.

When our country confronted European Christian barbarism and savagery it was not helped by anyone and no one came to prevent the aggression. Neither the League of Nations, nor the world's conscience, nor Christianity, nor the false European civilization tried to prevent the aggression. When aggression took place against our people, our people relied on no-one except themselves.

Consequently, once again, we do not rely on the United Nations, on the Security Council, or on any international organization, because we know that those who rely on these organizations will definitely not succeed but will certainly be losers. [passage omitted]

When we had to face the barbaric and savage aggression, no-one in the world tried to stop it. When we triumphed over it in historic battles like those at al-Qurdabiyah and Marsit, we did not seek help from anyone.

Once again we say to them: We are fully aware that history might repeat itself. Once again we are preparing to rely on the sons of our people who should be ready to make the sacrifice. We will rely on these angry masses and the revolutionary youth, on the sons of the martyrs, and the grandsons of the martyrs and heroes. We will rely on them once more in confronting U.S. arrogance and U.S. encroachment.

Brothers, we have killed fear and bypassed the stage of fear. We differ from all the defeatists, the submissives, the cowering ones who beg the United States even for a morsel of bread, from those who do not live on their soil, politically and economically, except under the protection of the United States and U.S. allies.

We differ totally from them, brothers, because in 1911 the greatest Islamic power on whom we used to rely and in whose hands our country's fate used to be, abandoned us. The Ottoman empire abandoned us at the most crucial time and left us to face the artillery of Italy—the great power at that time. [passage omitted]

Brothers, the Christian states, headed by the ageing dictatorial power United States, decided to put out of action one of the corners of Islam and one of Islam's rites. The United States has decided to prevent Libyans and Iraqis from going on pilgrimage to the house of God.

The United States decided to demolish a corner of the corners of Islam and to interfere in our religious worship. Have you not seen how the United States prevented the Islamic nations from practicing religious rites? When the United States decided this, the United nations did nothing to stop it, nor did the Security Council, nor the Arab League, nor the Islamic League, nor the OAU, nor the UN General Assembly, despite their sympathy with us and despite the fact that they knew that this decision was harsh and unjustified.

But brothers, the thing that tore up the U.S. decision and made it submit and forced it to stand as a bystander while the Libyan planes flew high in the air from Libya directly to Mecca, was the decision of the Libyan people. That decision was a revolutionary decision, a free decision, and a patriotic decision. It was not due to the Security Council or the United Nations.

Faced with our decision, the United States reluctantly had to give in because we possess the decision that concerns our right to life. Brothers, the United States will never prevent us going on pilgrimage, not this year or in any other year. Neither the United States or any one else can prevent us from practicing our worship.

Therefore, let the United States be aware that this year, next year, and until the day of judgment we will continue to perform the pilgrimage by air from Libya to Mecca whatever (?the circumstances).

The United States, its allies, and U.S. underlings know that the Crusades started on the pretext that Christians were not able to go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Consequently, they embarked on a crusade between the east and the west so that they could reach Jerusalem.

We are prepared to repeat this once more—that we will fight a holy war with the United States to be able to reach Mecca. No Arab or American can prevent us from reaching Mecca [words indistinct], even if we have to swim in a sea of blood. The United States should know this.

This issue concerns our right to life, sovereignty, dignity, and freedom. Everybody should know, from the false [UN] Security Council to the last [word indistinct] along our border, that it is our national decision that we will exercise this right and take responsibility for so doing. [passage omitted]

When we celebrate these historic and eternal battles which were waged by our forefathers, when we mark these battles at this very time, we do not merely cry and wail and raise slogans. These celebrations have great meaning for us; they mean that we are preparing for new battles over the Libyan and Arab lands and along the coasts of the Mediterranean against NATO and against U.S. fleets and agents. [passage omitted]

These are issues we ought to understand, brothers, while we commemorate the anniversaries of the battles our people waged. This means that you are today being trained and getting ready to wage battles similar to those glorious battles which our fathers and forefathers waged, such as the al-Qurdabiyah battle which we are today celebrating on its 80th anniversary. [passage omitted]

To stand today on this blood-stained land which contains the remains of the martyrs makes us once more belittle the armies and lackeys of the United States and the lackey reaction allied to the United States. It makes us, brothers, consider lightly the new confrontations challenging us today. Brothers, we should be prepared to draw a lesson from these battles and be ready to confront the new enemy with the same determination and bravery with which our fathers and forefathers confronted the armies of Italy.

I know that the Libyan people are today living in a golden age. They have been enjoying prosperity and freedom and their voice is very audible. If we want this to be permanent we must guard it. We must not squander it. The first thing we have to do is to get ready to make sacrifices to protect this golden age.

They occupied us when Libya was poor, when it did not have oil. At the time they did not know that there is oil in Libya, yet they still occupied us, banished us, made us homeless, hanged us, and mined our land. They did everything they could do. Just think what would have been the case today when Libya is sitting on a lake of oil and gas—a vital commodity in the world today. Today it is oil and gas that provide the power to operate machines, so they are not as stupid as they were in 1911. [passage omitted]

We should know that the United States wants to control the world's sources of oil. They wanted this to remain a secret, but we are not going to let it remain a secret. This is why we are exposing their secret today.

The United States talks about human rights and about stability and terrorism. This is humbug. We are not going to taken in by it because we tried Italy, France, and Britain before the United States. Those people in the United States today may be ignorant, we are not. We know these absurd things which imperialism is putting forward as pretexts.

Human rights? The United States is the most avowed enemy of human rights. The U.S. man is a wretched man. He has no-one to speak for him. The government carries out wholesale executions daily in the United States. Quite recently, two years ago, U.S. Army tanks attacked children and women of the Davidian sect who were worshipping God. Who protested? Who protested this savage act? Who defended the U.S. citizen? Thus, we see that the United States is a real enemy of mankind, of humanity, of human rights. The United States does not recognize human rights even inside its own territory, because the real owner of the land in the United States is the Red Indian and the Red Indians are our kith and kin. [passage omitted]

An Arab has the same rights as a Jew or a Yankee in the United States; all are immigrants. The real people in the United States are the Red Indians. The United States uses human rights as a pretext for action, but this is a lie and falsification.

The United States also uses terrorism as a pretext. The United States is the state that more than any other believes in a policy of terrorism. The United States is behind international terrorism, organized terrorism, and official terrorism, and terrorizes peoples by every means. Therefore we cannot listen to the United States or believe it when it says it is against terrorism. Without the United States there would be no terrorism in the world. If the United States were to vanish, terrorism would vanish from the face of the earth, and I mean both the terrorism [that] the United States itself practices and the terrorism and violence directed against the United States itself. Therefore it is the United States itself that is the cause of terrorism.

The United States defends stability, but itself lacks stability. Thousands upon thousands of armed militiamen are staging popular armed revolution in the United States. Was not the Oklahoma incident terrorism? The United States is the country of armed popular revolution by the masses living in the United States. [passage omitted]

This is a revolution of the masses; this the era of the masses. No matter what laws they promulgate in the United States to allow dictatorship and repression, they will not be able to stop this deluge. This is the era of the masses [jamahir].

And here we would like to invite our friend Clinton and his wife. We would like to say to them that it would be better for them to come and live in Libya and leave the U.S. hell behind. For Libya is the only safe country in the whole world.

This is the only solution. Asking the Congress for more dictatorial powers is not a solution. These powers will not stop this volcano of mass protest. They will never stop it.

As far as world stability is concerned, the United States is the main threat to such stability. Therefore, we should not believe that U.S. interference is solely to protect world stability. For there is no-one else who has been threatening world stability but the United States.

Hence we should not believe that human rights, stability, or peace justify such interference. This is a lie and a falsehood. Their main goal is to control regions rich in energy resources and gasoline.

The United States wants to colonize the world and control the sources of energy without saying so. It will never say frankly: We are going to the Gulf because there is oil there or because there is oil in Libya, in Algeria, in Nigeria, or in Iran. The United States does not say so, but it makes excuses.

This is all exposed to a people like the Libyan people. The Libyan people fought battles like the al-Qurdabiyah battle and others. The Libyan people have historic experience which the U.S. people and the U.S. Government did not have. All U.S. administrations were ignorant and they lacked the rich experience of the Libyan people.

We paid the price of this experience. We paid the price for these lessons. Our fathers and forefathers paid the price. Here lie their remains and their graves lie beside us.

The Libyan people, the Tunisian people, the Algerian people, the Moroccan people, the Egyptian people, and the Gulf people must understand that the U.S. goal is to control the gasoline-rich regions, and that the United States will not willingly refrain from doing so; it will stop only if forced. [passage omitted]

O youth, please consider the Chinese support for the Libyan people at the [UN] Security Council. China—which has a huge population, nearly a quarter of the world's population—has never voted for any anti-Libyan resolution. When India, whose population is also a quarter of the world population, was a member of the Security Council, it also refused, along with China, to support any anti-Libyan resolution. Furthermore, the Arab League, the Arab nation, the Muslim world, the OAU and the Nonaligned Movement have all expressed their support for the Libyan people. However, their support did fail to prevent the adoption of unjust resolutions.

And international sympathy could not help a Libyan aircraft to take off. But your action did make it happen, and a plane flew from Tripoli to Jeddah. [applause]

Of course we would like to thank our Arab brothers for their efforts, their sympathy, and their good intentions. We would like to thank our poor Arab brothers; they have tried their best. We would like also salute the Muslim nation, the Arab nation, the African continent, the Nonaligned Movement, and all other peoples which supported the Libyan people. We are very proud of their support and we salute them.

Nonetheless, you must remember that all this international sympathy will not be enough to help you reclaim your rights or prevent the adoption of unjust U.S. resolutions against you. Only your action, challenge, and readiness for sacrifice can do that. [passage omitted]

Any decision taken henceforth against the United States, against NATO, against Zionism, or against reactionary forces will require further sacrifices.

We must be ready to make such sacrifices. Otherwise the enemy's decision will prevail as there is nothing to stop a strong and a tyrannical enemy.

Take, for example, this very strange decision passed at the [UN] Security Council, the decision of major Christian powers to prevent Muslims from performing one of their religious duties.

By so doing, the United States was interfering with one of Islam's five tenets, the pilgrimage to God's holy house. The United States decided to bar Libyans and Iraqis from the hajj. No-one was able to challenge this decision for three years. We had to go all the way to the hajj on camels. The whole world looked on and no-one cared. So we had to take the inescapable decision to go ahead and perform the rites of our religion without having to heed anybody's orders. This is actually what happened. And if such a decision warrants further sacrifices, we must be ready to make them.

If defending gasoline, the source of your livelihood, requires the death of thousands, like those martyrs who are resting in peace near us here, then we must be ready for martyrdom. [passage omitted]

Italy came to Libya in the name of civilization and progress, and to teach Christianity and civilization. See what they did to us. After al-Qurdabiyah they arrested women, children, and the elderly and transported them to Italy; 1,000 in the course of a year—1,000 women, children, and elderly prisoners. [passage omitted]

The whole world was against the Italian barbarism, but who was able to prevent the Italian knife from butchering our people. No-one could prevent that, despite all their sympathy. Only our blood and sacrifices was able to stop the enemy. Even now, no matter how much sympathy you get from Arabs and Muslims, it is your blood and sacrifices that will wrest your rights and abolish resolutions.

My brothers, the United States used the Security Council against Somalia, as it did against you. It passed a resolution declaring Aydid, the hero of Somali resistance, a war criminal. It passed a very shameful Security Council resolution declaring a national resistance hero a war criminal and ordered his arrest. The whole world was against the resolution, but the Security Council which represents the world, passed the resolution. Who prevented this resolution? Who abolished the resolution? Who said that the resolution was false and that Aydid was not a war criminal but a national hero? It was the

Somali people. The sacrifices of the Somali people and the blood of the sons of the Somali people forced the United States to abolish the resolution. The United States then abolished the resolution and passed another resolution stating that Aydid is not a war criminal. How nice! [passage omitted]

Our position is very clear. We do not want our people to be colonized again. We do not our land to be raped again. We do not want our honor and that which we hold sacred to be violated again.

We are aware that colonialism recurs, that injustice recurs, and that the powerful are prone to megalomania. Therefore, we have decided to fight, to offer sacrifices, and to stand fast, so that what Italy did to us will not be repeated.

Young people, this is the lesson to be learned from the memorable days of al-Qurdabiyah. [passage omitted]

Hear me, this is not the time for smuggling, playing cards, smoking hashish, drinking alcohol, or laziness. This is the time when you should be proving your manhood and defend your honor against the United States and U.S. tyranny. [passage indistinct]

We have sent a message on behalf of the World Islamic popular leadership to notify the world that the United States has protested and was upset and angry that a Libyan airliner should start an air bridge and be the first to fly a pilgrimage convoy directly from Libya to Mecca. The message says the fact that the United States is angry, upset, and full of protests means that the United States is officially, impudently, and blatantly interfering with Muslims's right to worship and to practice their religion. [passage omitted]

The United States is aware that gasoline is the livelihood of Libyans and the livelihood of their children. Without it there would be death. Gasoline is the food of Libyan children; that is clear. You have not found a substitute for gasoline. Gasoline is still the food of your children and the meal of your [word indistinct]. Therefore, without it there would be death, just as there would be if we could not perform the pilgrimage, one of the pillars of Islam. [passage omitted]

We will tell them that Libya is no pushover. As I told you, do not deceive the enemy. Italy was deceived; it said three months and went on for 20 years. [passage omitted]

No, let us not deceive the enemy. We will do whatever we say. In Tubruq, we said... [changes thought] We swore in Tubruq that this year we will perform the pilgrimage and fly from Libya whatever the cost, even if a catastrophe occurred. That indeed is what happened. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

Egypt's Mubarak Sends Congratulations

LD2804170995 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr [April] 28, Jamahariya News Agency—Telephone contact was made yesterday between the leader of the revolution and President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, during which President Mubarak congratualted the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people on the 80th anniversary of the historic battle of al-Qurdabiya.

Sudan

Official Sees U.S. Statements as 'Interference'

EA0105171095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Anwar al-Hadi, the director of the Political Department at the Foreign Ministry, has described the statements made by the U.S. national security adviser, and the assistant secretary of state as indications of [word indistinct] interference in the internal affairs of other states. His excellency called on the international community to forcibly stop such forms of interference.

In a statement to the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY, the director of the political department at the Foreign Ministry, said such scandalous interference will not extend only to the state concerned, but will go on to embrace all the neighboring states by subjecting them to U.S. pressure against their national, strategic, and security interests.

The director of the political department reiterated Sudan's keenness to conduct dialogue with any quarter on the basis of mutual understanding and respect with a view to achieving greater understanding. He stressed Sudan's readiness to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity by all available means, and on the basis of faith and tradition.

The director of the political department said the United States lacks understanding of the tribal and cultural mesh in Third World states, and continues to ignore the effects of faith and tradition even after its recent defeats in Vietnam and Somalia.

The U.S. national security adviser had earlier said that his country will work to serve its interests which are contrary to those of other states by means of international and regional organizations and neighboring states. The assistant secretary of state, for his part, said the United States will use bilateral and international pressure to bring about the changes it greatly desires, and that it will not cease its efforts to bring about such changes.

Rebel Groups Reportedly Merge; Machar Reacts

AB2804190595 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 28 Apr 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Earlier this week, Riak Machar of the South Sudan Independence Movement, SSIM, called us up to say that a deal had been done with the rival SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] of John Garang to end hostilities between the two rebel movements, to impose a permanent cease-fire, and allow the free movement of troops and civilians in areas held by the rebels in southern Sudan. The hostility between the two groups and the outbreaks of fighting have badly limited their effectiveness against the Khartoum government forces in recent years. Well, this afternoon, George Garang—John's namesake of the SPLA—called us to confirm that an agreement had been signed in Sudan with SSIM. Robin White asked him if he could also confirm that a cease-fire was in effect.

[Begin recording] [Garang] There will be no more fighting between our forces. A cease-fire commission has already been formed, and it has already started working.

[White] And what is going to be the next step?

[Garang] The next step is integration of forces.

[White] And when will that start?

[Garang] It has already started.

[White] And how long will it take to complete?

[Garang] This is a process. In areas where it is possible like the (?Lopur) area, it has already been done. In other areas, like Eastern (?Upper Nile) and Western (?Upper Nile), the committee will start work immediately, and as far as possible, people remain under their present commanders.

[White] Will the two movements still continue to exist or will there be some kind of merger?

[Garang] Well, it is already an integration into the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] and the SPLA. They will all be one movement.

[White] And it will be called the SPLA?

[Garang] Yes.

[White] Has Riak Machar agreed to that?

[Garang] Well, Riak has been monitoring the situation, and as far as we know, there is no disagreement up till now.

[White] And what about the question of leadership?

[Garang] The question of leadership is merely an administrative one. I think there is no problem. The problem has been that the people in southern Sudan have been calling for the reunification of the movement. It is no longer a question of leadership.

[White] So who will be the leader?

[Garang] Well, of course up till now, the leader of the movement has been Dr. John Garang since 1983.

[White] And will he continue to be the leader?

[Garang] Of course.

[White] And has Riak Machar agreed to that?

[Garang] Well, Riak has no problem with Dr. John Garang. I think he will have no other objection.

[White] But, he has a lot of problems with John Garang. He accused him of being a tyrant, and killing people, and an abuser of human rights.

[Garang] I think that is not fair to say that Robin. You give the man a chance [words indistinct]. We think he has never killed anybody. There may have been abuses, but Dr. John Garang is not responsible for them. [end recording]

[Announcer] Well, Riak Machar has leaped onto the line to react to all that, and says that he has not agreed to anything of the sort. Robin White asked him what, in that case, his position was.

[Begin recording] [Machar] There is no program for disbanding SSIM and, for anything I know, of Garang being a leader. But I know that there is an agreement on cessation of hostilities and cease- fire.

[White] But have you not agreed to disband your organization and merge it with the SPLA?

[Machar] There is no (?thought) of disbanding the SSIM and merging with anybody.

[White] What, never?

[Machar] No, not ever. I have made my point clear that the SSIM is a political movement on the ground with its forces.

[White] And it will remain so until when?

[Machar] If the liberation struggle in south Sudan agrees on the process of uniting its ranks, it will remain until that time. [end recording]

Machar 'Willing To Negotiate'

MM0105152495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Apr 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Nizar Daw-al-Na'im and Sulayman Salim: "Garang Announces Reunification of Two Rebel Movements in Sudan"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Nairobi—The Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, led by Colonel John Garang, has announced that it has reached an agreement on the reunification of its two main factions. In a statement issued in Nairobi yesterday it pointed out that Garang and Commander William Niyun [as transliterated], chief of staff of the South [Sudan] Independence Movement [SSIM], signed the agreement. And that the movement's reunification has been in force since Thursday [27 April] afternoon.

However, SSIM leader Riak Machar told AL-HAYAH over the telephone in London yesterday that "what we have agreed upon so far is reconciliation and peace. We are willing to negotiate with Garang over the unification issue. It is meaningless to rush such an important matter."

Machar said that Garang's statement "is a positive step and part of our efforts to implement our agreement to end hostilities." He added that "securing reconciliation first and achieving peace second would prepare the atmosphere for discussing the two movement's reunification—a long process which cannot be completed in one day."

Machar added that his movement has been committed to the cease-fire since the agreement was signed by Niyun and Garang. "We welcome any optimistic talk of unity." [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Minister Denies Breach in GCC Solidarity

LD0205101795 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, 2 May 95, KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY, KUNA—The first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, has reiterated, in an interview published today, that there is are no breaches in the basic policy of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member countries. He added in his interview which was published in London in today's AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "There are no breaches. There are, nonetheless, various approaches within a basic framework, and these approaches do not undermine the GCC's basic policy."

He insisted, however, that "every member country has its own approach when dealing with topical issues. It is within its sovereign right to do so and it is actually rather quite inaccurate to describe it as breaches."

Replying to a question on the Arab countries which have recently been known as "the anti-bloc" [did not sufficiently condemn the Iraqi invasion], he said "we wished that such a term would never have been included in the Arabic diplomatic language." Nonetheless he attributed the use of the term to the shock of the Kuwaiti people following the Iraqi invasion of the state of Kuwait in August 1990 and went on to say: "We would like to restore Kuwait's relations to its pre-invasion level. But it is not up to us, it is up to them," he insisted, however.

As far as lifting the anti-Iraq embargo was concerned, Shaykh Sabah reiterated that Kuwait has nothing to do with it and explained: "Lifting the embargo is not within the powers of Kuwait. The embargo was not imposed by Kuwait; it was a measure taken by the international community." But he regretted, however, the Iraqi decision to reject the recent offer allowing it to sell some of its oil under the pretext that it was prejudicial to its sovereignty. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti foreign minister dwelt upon the problem of the anti- Israel Arab boycott, saying: "The Arab boycott of Israel was not a Kuwaiti or a GCC measure; it was an Arab decision taken by the Arab League." However, he explained: "We, in Kuwait, decided, following the invasion and the war of liberation, to abolish, for reasons of national interest, the boycott of foreign companies dealing directly or indirectly with Israel." [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Court Hands Down Prison Terms to 10 'Saboteurs'

JN0105173595 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 1 May (WAKH)—The State Security Court in Bahrain today sentenced 10 saboteurs to prison terms ranging from seven to three years, in addition to a collective fine of 120,657 dinars in return for the damages they caused. An 11th defendant was acquitted.

The court sentenced Husayn 'Ali Muhsin al-Tattan to seven years in prison and Salman 'Abdallah Salman Nashshabah to five years. The defendants Nizar Muhammad 'Ali al-Qari', Ra'id Salman 'Abdallah al-Khawajah, Ahmad Sayyid Ni'mah Sayyid Hashim, Ja'far Hasan Ahmad al-Sayyah, 'Abbas Ahmad Salman al-'Arradi, Majid Milad Ahmad al-Jaziri, Ja'far Salman 'Abd-al-Husayn, and [first name indistinct] 'Ali Marhun received three-year prison terms.

The court charged the defendants with carrying out the crimes of belonging to an illegal organization, instigating and participating in riots, and damaging power stations and public installations.

The court acquitted 'Abd-al-Jabbar Ibrahim al-'Asfur of the charges brought against him.

Kuwait

Syrian Parliamentarians Confer With Assembly Members

JN0105203595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait—[Syrian] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah and the accompanying delegation met at the Kuwaiti National Assembly today with Jasim al-Saqr, chairman of the Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, and the members of the committee. Syrian Ambassador in Kuwait Dr. Mustafa al-Hajj 'Ali attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah spoke about the democratic life in Syria and the role of the People's Assembly in political life, asserting that Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, has always worked to achieve Arab solidarity. Qaddurah said: Syria works to achieve a just and comprehensive peace based on Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, as well as on international legitimacy which guarantees Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan to the 4 June [1967] borders and from southern Lebanon. He said that Syria will not relinquish an iota of its soil, adding that the rush to sign separate agreements with Israel will not achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Qaddurah called for developing relations between both countries' parliaments. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Vietnamese President's 4-Day Visit

Greeted on Arrival

LD0105133095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1205 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait City, 1 May (KUNA)—Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh arrived here today on a four-day official visit at the head of a high-level delegation.

An official statement said that the Vietnamese guest was greeted on his arrival by Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah; Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and a number of senior officials. [passage omitted]

The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has already granted four loans to Vietnam worth a total of 17.971 million Kuwaiti dinars.

Meets Heir Apparent

LD0205084895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0603 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 2 May—Le Duc Anh, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, continues today his four-day visit, which he started yesterday. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, Le Duc Anh held two separate meetings with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. The meetings focused on the situation in the Gulf and the prospects for economic cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Discusses Bilateral Ties With Amir

LD0205104595 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Le Duc Anh, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, visited His Highness the Amir of the country at Bayan palace where official talks between them were convened.

Minister of Amiri Court Affairs Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah said that the talks focused on bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and means of developing them in various fields, as well as, issues of common interest. An amicable and friendly atmosphere prevailed the talks.

Budget Deficit Expected To Fall in 1995-96

LD0105154695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1503 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 1 May (KUNA)—A press statement released by the Ministry of Finance today shows that the estimated state budget deficit in the 1995-96 financial year will be about 285 million dinars less that the deficit last year.

The statement said that the budget deficit in the new financial year will be about 1.481 billion dinars, while in the current year—1994-95—it reached about 1.766 billion dinars.

The statement said that the estimated total revenue of the new budget, endorsed by the Council of Ministers yesterday, is 2.91 billion dinars—about 273 million dinars more than the current year's revenue.

The statement said that the future generation's reserve fund from the revenue will be about 291 million dinars.

It pointed out that the expenditures of ministries and government departments in the 1995-96 financial year will be 4.1 billion dinars—40 million dinars less than that in the current financial year 1994-95.

The statement said that estimates in the first section on wages is 1.18 billion dinars—36 million dinars higher than in the 1994-95 financial year, while estimates in the second section on basic goods and services is 260 million dinars—3 million dinars lower than in the 1994-95 financial year.

The statement recalled that estimates in the third section on means of transportation, and equipment and supplies is 30 million dinars—5 million dinars lower than the current financial year, while estimates for section four on construction projects, maintenance, and public consumption went up by 40 million dinars to reach 380 million dinars.

Estimates in the fifth section on various expenditures and transfer payments is 2.25 billion dinars—108 million dinars down from the 1994-95 financial year.

The draft budget includes estimates of revenue sources; oil revenue is estimated at 2.49 billion dinars, while nonoil revenues are estimated at 420 million dinars.

Saudi Arabia

Forces Deploy Around Iranian Hajj Camp in Mecca

NC0105180895 Paris AFP in English 1534 GMT 1 May 95

[Report by Suleiman Nimer]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mecca, Saudi Arabia, May 1 (AFP)—Saudi security forces have deployed around the Iranian camp here to enforce a ban on political rallies during the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, an official said Monday [1 May].

"A small number of security forces deployed around the camp for Iranian pilgrims to show (Saudi Arabia's) determination to prevent demonstrations and any action which could undermine security," the official told AFP.

In Tehran, the official news agency IRNA said in a dispatch from Mecca that 2,000 Saudi security forces had taken up position near the camp and that they had torn down a sign bearing verses from the Koran.

The Saudi official who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity denied Saudi forces had "provoked or disturbed Iranian pilgrims."

On Sunday Saudi Interior Minister Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz warned that "we will be firm and will not allow any threat to the pilgrimage and the security of the holy sites" in Mecca and Medina.

"We will not tolerate anarchy and the kingdom will resort to all means necessary to confront any demonstration by Iranians or others," Prince Nayif said.

The pilgrimage, or hajj, is to culminate here May 8-10 with two million Moslems from around the world.

In Riyadh, Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz, who as mufti of Saudi Arabia is the country's highest religious authority, threw his weight behind the government when he said protests during the pilgrimage are considered "heresy" by Islam.

Nayif said on Wednesday that Saudi Arabia had for the third year running banned political rallies during the pilgrimage after Iran announced that its quota of 69,000 pilgrims had planned to hold an anti-American demonstration.

Iranian demonstrators, who have also denounced Israel and even the Saudi government during their rallies, have in the past clashed with Saudi security forces.

In 1987, 402 people, mainly Iranians, died in violence which prompted Riyadh to break off relations with Tehran for three years.

Saudi Arabia's relations with Iran have been tense since the 1979 Islamic revolution, and its ties with Iraq have been strained since the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

But Nayif said Saudi Arabia's borders were "open to all pilgrims, including Iraqis. We have never closed the land crossing point at 'Arar" between Saudi Arabia and Iraq, he added.

Nayif meanwhile accused "foreign parties" of fomenting political unrest in its Arab Gulf neighbor Bahrain and said "our security, Bahrain's and other Gulf countries are inseparable."

Unrest erupted in Bahrain, an archipelago joined to Saudi Arabia by a causeway built in the mid-1980s, following the arrest of a Moslem Shiite cleric on December 5.

At least a dozen people have been killed, including three policemen, according to diplomats.

The opposition demands the restoration of parliament and constitution but the Shiite Moslems, a majority in Sunni-governed Bahrain, also complain of job discrimination and unemployment.

The government suspects foreign countries, particularly Iran, of stirring up trouble.

Prince Nayif also said that the Libyan airliner that landed here last month in violation of the UN sanctions had entered "Saudi air space legally and left it normally."

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent the plane here on April 19 with 150 pilgrims aboard even though a UN compromise was being worked out to have Egypt Air take Libyan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

U.S. officials criticised the Saudi decision.

A ban on flights and other sanctions were imposed on Libya three years ago for its refusal to hand over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie Scotland in which 270 people died.

Bin-Baz Tells Pilgrims To Give Up 'Heresy'

LD0105130395 Riyadh SPA in English 1239 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, May 1, SPA—Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz, the kingdom's general mufti and president of the commission of the senior ulema (Islamic scholars), has deplored staging of processions and demonstrations during the hajj season and said it is a kind of heresy.

Neither the Prophet Muhammad, peace be on him, nor his companions had staged processions and demonstrations at the holy places during the hajj season, said Bin-Baz in a statement released here today.

Those who used to stage processions and demonstrations during the hajj season to declare immunity from the infidels are advised to give up this heresy and at the same time the state should take the appropriate measures to prevent processions and demonstrations, Bin-Baz added.

Opponent on Succession, Pilgrim Incident

NC0105205595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 May 95

[From the "News and Reports" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz, Saudi Arabia's general mufti and president of the commission of senior ulema, has issued a fatwa in which he stresses that staging demonstrations during the pilgrimage is a kind of heresy and is tantamount to apostacy. Islam punishes apostacy with death. In a statement carried today by the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY, SPA, he alleges that the demonstration expressing disavowal of polytheism, which has been emphasized by Hojjat Ol-Eslam Mohammadi Reshahri, head of the Iranian pilgrimage mission, is heresy and would result in great corruption and evil. He also claimed that God has ordered his worshipers to disavow the polytheists at all times, but that staging marches and demonstrations during the pilgrimage in holy Mecca or anywhere else to disavow polytheists is an innovation and a heresy. He called on the Saudi authorities to quash any such attempts.

We do not want here to expose the contradictions in the claims of this well-known royal preacher. His statement is contradictory. Regarding this issue, the worsening crisis within the ruling Saudi ruling family, and on the latest military alert, our program moderator Jihad al-'Idan telephoned Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari, head of the Human Rights Committee in Saudi Arabia: The telephone interview follows:

[Begin recording] [Al-'Idan] Dr. al-Mas'ari, reports leaking from Saudi Arabia indicate a worsening political crisis in Saudi Arabia as well as a power struggle over succession to the king. What information do you have on this issue?

[Al-Mas'ari] Available information is very disturbing and serious. Of course, the news is fairly reliable and the information is to a great extent true. The information changes daily. The king is in deteriorating health and sometimes loses consciousness; he is afflicted by bleeding resulting from kidney failure and occasionally needs blood transfusions. He is not in a good health and does not enjoy an alert mind to enable him to exercise the absolute power he has.

[Prince] Sultan's role has strengthened and the Palestinian portfolio has been added to his responsibilities. [Prince] Salman appears to be assuming a secondary role. It seems this is a plot by the al-Sudayriyah clan to install at least one of them in power. This is because the power struggle that has begun to emerge between Bandar and some of his uncles is likely to harm them. [Crown Prince] 'Abdallah's position is growing stronger particularly because he enjoys powerful support from the National Guard. It is said that [Prince] Mut'ib Bin-'Abdallah is roving among the tribes and is frankly advocating his father. This is significant because it has never occurred before.

Thus, the five, ten, or 15 leading figures in Saudi Arabia are in a power struggle among themselves and will not hesitate to resort to killing to liquidate one another. There is a report, as yet unconfirmed, that [Prince] 'Abdallah's recent illness was made worse by an attempt to poison him slowly. It is said that some members of the al-Sudayriyah clan are behind this attempt. This is unlikely. It is almost certain that [King] Fahd was behind the assassination of [former king] Faysal or was an accomplice in it. There is also a strong accusation that he had a role in the death, or killing, of [former King] Khalid by poisoning.

In any case, this is a family that has indulged in worldly pleasures to the point that its members can no longer see the supreme interests—not even the higher interests of the royal clan itself, let alone the interests of the state, nation, or religion. The situation is very serious and augers the gravest of consequences.

[Al-'Idan] Dr. al-Mas'ari, we have received information that Bin-Baz passed a new fatwa that demonstrations expressing disavowal of the polytheists are tantamount to apostacy, are prohibited, and constitute a kind of heresy. What do you say about this?

[Al-Mas'ari] My comment is the same as what I said about his previous fatwa. A group of ulema—I do not specifically mean Bin- Baz, but the official shaykhs—issue fatwas. Some of them seek to back the government, some are unaware of the facts, others betray God and Prophet Muhammad, and still others out of naivete, hurriedly issue fatwas on major and sensitive issues, whether deliberately or not. It is well known that rejecting vice and proclaiming the truth can be done in public or in secret. Declaring the truth is a duty. Confronting the oppressors and forcing them to follow the right path is outlined in the Prophet's teachings. Regarding ways of expressing religious beliefs, marching, expressing views, shouting—provided that it does not interfere with prayers—are allowed according to the shari'ah. Marches, sit-ins, applause, and appeals are allowed because there is no evidence in the shari'ah banning them. The shari'ah teachings to reject vice, declare the truth, and disavow tyrants and polytheists are required according to the shar'iah and are duties of sincere preachers, ulema, and the people. Thus, marches, demonstrations, sit-ins, magazine articles, both secret and public letters, and the use of radios are allowed. Anyone who claims this is untrue, has to prove it.

However, we are not surprised by this fatwa. It is not surprising that Bin-Baz, who authorized peace with the Jews—who are usurpers and antagonistic toward Muslims—and who says that the Jews are inclined toward peace—when have the Jews been inclined toward peace?—should issue such a fatwa.

[Al-'Idan] There is a military alert in Mecca. What can you say about this? Is it directed against the pilgrims? Why is the Saudi regime afraid of the pilgrims?

[Al-Mas'ari] The regime is afraid because some of the pilgrims may declare the truth and make moves that do not serve the regime's interests or affect its stay in power. The regime does not have the moral, intellectual, or cultural abilities to come up with objective and convincing arguments against objective and credible criticism. The regime believes that it cannot hold on to power unless it uses force. History proves—as in the cases of the Bolshevik state, the shah of Iran, and other ancient and modern nations since the time of the pharaohs—that such methods are futile. In sum, we think that these methods are intended to quell and intimidate the pilgrims in order to control them. However, we have no detailed information on this event.

[Al-'Idan] Thank you Dr. al-Mas'ari for this important interview. May God be with you. [end recording]

Minister on Pilgrimage Issues, Death Sentences

LD0205054795 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mina, 1 May—His Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, minister of interior and chairman of the Supreme Pilgrimage Committee, held a news conference at the general security headquarters in Mina yesterday after His Highness had toured the sacred sites and holy Mecca.

At the beginning of the conference, His Highness the interior minister welcomed the press and the media, then answered the questions put to him.

To a question on His Highness's view about those who came to the hajj to disturb the serenity of the pilgrims, His Highness the interior minister said: I have already made clear my view and there is no doubt that I am not the only one who is surprised by this matter. It is my belief that there is no mature Muslim who would ever accept any of this, because what the Almighty Creator ordered us to do and what the Prophet, may blessings and peace be upon him, taught us is clear as to how a Muslim should perform the ceremonies of pilgrimage. As Muslims we are obliged to abide by this and neither add to it nor detract from it.

Anyone who tries or will try on the hajj which will take place in a few days, anyone among those present today in Medina or Mecca who may try to depart from what the Almighty Creator has ordered or what the Prophet, may blessings and peace be upon him, has taught us, should know that this is something that cannot be accepted. I have already stressed this many times, both through the official channels and clarifications issued by officials.

In a reply to a question about those who wish to turn the duty of hajj to political slogans and what Amnesty International had indicated about the Kingdom's execution of those who had killed someone or who trafficked in drugs, His Highness replied: Any case in which there is killing or in which divine law applies will be handed over to the judiciary. First it will go to the high court in any city and three judges will look into it. Then the case will go to the cassation body which has five judges. Then it will be put before the permanent body of the Supreme Judicial Council which also has five judges.

So there are 13 judges who pass this sentence either as a divine law or in retribution. This is a legal matter which cannot be debated. The divine laws and retribution are well known and under no circumstances can such a sentence fail to be based on that which I have explained. Regarding drugs, when this matter became serious in our country, in my capacity as interior minister I had to deal with the issue. It was put before the body of senior religious scholars to examine whether the existing penalties did not give the desired result. [passage omitted]

Since in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia our point of reference is the judiciary and the judiciary derives its sentences from the provisions of the Islamic shari'ah, we have said, we say now and we will say that we will carry out God's sentences. [passage omitted]

Saudi-Yemeni Joint Military Committee Meets

LD0105203095 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah Ali Ulaywah, chief of general staff in the Republic of Yemen and head of the Yemeni side of the Saudi-Yemeni joint military committee, and members of the committee arrived in Riyadh at noon today. The Yemeni delegation was welcomed at the Riyadh air base by Staff General Muhammad Bin Salih al-Hammad, chief of general staff and head of the Saudi side of the Saudi-Yemeni joint military committee, members of the committee, and Dr. Muhammdad Ahmad al-Kabab, ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to the kingdom.

The Saudi-Yemeni military committee held the first session of the committee's third meeting in Riyadh this afternoon under the chairmanship of the Staff General Muhammad Bin Salih al-Hammad and Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah Ali Ulaywah. It was attended by all the members of the committee.

General al-Hammad opened the session with a speech in which he welcomed the head and members of the Yemeni side of the committee and wished them a good stay in their second country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. After that, the committee started to discuss the issues listed on the agenda.

The Saudi-Yemeni military committee held a second session this evening within the framework of its third meeting to complete its discussion of the issues listed on the agenda.

Experts Discuss Border Dispute

NC0105204795 Paris AFP in English 1830 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, May 1 (AFP)—A joint Saudi-Yemeni military committee met here Monday [1 May] for a fresh round of talks aimed at maintaining peace on the two countries' disputed border, Yemeni diplomats said.

Experts will "study ways to prevent armed clashes between Riyadh and Sanaa or between tribes living on either side of the border," a diplomat said.

They will also try to "reorganise the position of their troops on the border in anticipation of the demarcation" of the boundary, he told AFP.

Tension escalated between the two Arab peninsula neighbours after a series of armed clashes in December and January.

The military committee meeting is the third since the signing on February 26 at Mecca, Saudi Arabia, of a declaration of principles to settle the dispute.

Under the accord, committees were set up to demarcate the border and to normalise bilateral relations, which deteriorated during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis in which Yemen was accused of siding with Iraq.

Saudi Arabia and Yemen dispute the provinces of 'Asir, Najran and Jizan, northwest of Sanaa, which came under Saudi control through a 1934 agreement signed in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Praises Role of Businessmen in Economy

LD0105132795 Riyadh SPA in English 1234 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, May 1, SPA—Custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has highlighted the strength of the Saudi economy and lauded the positive contribution of the Saudi businessmen to the development of the country's economy.

King Fahd, addressing a group of citizens who came to greet him here last night, said a number of the Americans who recently visited the kingdom had spoken in a realistic and rational manner about the economic situation in the kingdom and lauded the stability prevailing in the country and the excellent existing relations between the citizens and their government.

If we compare ourselves with the others, we will realize the fact that we are a in a better situation, he said and added 'We thank the almighty Allah who has bestowed on us so many bounties including rains.'

'When I was outside Riyadh I met with a number of citizens,' he said and added, 'I always feel happy when any citizen writes to me a message including an advice or a proposal because I feel that we are one unified family.'

He pointed out that the kingdom was founded on the bases of the holy Koran and Sunnah (the prophet's teachings).

King Fahd said we should feel happy and pride over the big strides we have made in all spheres.

Citing the bounties bestowed by the almighty Allah on the kingdom, King Fahd said 'Of course you have heard the statement of the minister of petroleum and mineral resources about the oil fields recently discovered in al-Huta region.'

King Fahd expressed delight over the progress and development attained by the Saudi press institutions and said 'They constitute an important intellectual value.'

He expressed appreciation for the intensive efforts being exerted by the minister of information and his colleagues for the development of the press establishments.

King Fahd welcomed the pilgrims and reiterated the keenness of the kingdom to ensure their comfort and to provide them with all possible facilities and services.

He noted that the projects implemented in Mecca, Medina and the holy places have provided a clear evidence for the attention given by the state to the guests of God.

We are planning to double our efforts next year so as to ease crowdness [as received] at Jamrat (stoning) area in the holy places, he said.

King Fahd reiterated the determination of the kingdom to go ahead in the path of the Islamic teachings and to adhere to the holy Koran and Sunnah (the prophet's teachings).

King Fahd Chairs Cabinet Session

LD0105202495 Riyadh SPA in English 1940 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, May 1, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud presided the weekly regular session held by the Council of Ministers at Al-Yamama Palace here this afternoon.

Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) at the end of the session that the Council reviewed a number of issues the regular procedures of which were completed during the previous meetings and King Fahd issued his wise directives on what could be done on them.

Concering the constant preparations being made for providing maximum comfort and the best public services for pilgrims and in view of the daily reports being received by the king, King Fahd praised the efforts being made by all concerned bodies to realise the noble purpose and he reaffirmed the keenness of the Saudi people and Government to enable all pilgrims of performing their hajj rituals in peace and comfort.

The Council of Ministers afterwards discussed a number of issues on its agenda and reviewed reports presented by the concerned ministers on these domestic matters and the king listened to the views and proposals made by the ministers and expressed his keen interest on realisation of the general interest of the country and citizens on all aspects.

Al-Sha'ir said the Cabinet also tackled the current situations of the Arab and Islamic worlds and the minister of Islamic affairs, endowments, propagation and guidance Dr 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd al-Muhsin al-Turki briefed the Council on the outcome of his recent visit to Egypt and meetings with scholars and thinkers. He highlighted the sincere feelings they expressed towards King Fahd and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in general especially towards the historical development projects implemented by the kingdom at the two holy mosques in Mecca and Medinah.

Commenting on this, King Fahd spotlighted the meaningful and constructive role being undertaken by the kingdom to serve the Islamic causes in the framework of its constant efforts to reinforce its role in the international arena. The king also shed light on a number of Arab and international important issues.

Referring to the domestic issues reviewed during today's meeting, Minister al-Sha'ir said the Cabinet approved the general agreement for economic, commercial, investment, technical, cultural, youth and sports cooperation between the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Azerbaijan and a royal decree has been issued accordingly.

After seeing relevant royal decrees and in view of the resolution of the Shura Council No. 17/20/15 of 6-7-1415, the Council ratified extension of the validity of an agreement for avoding double taxation covering income tax, estates and inheritance tax signed by the Saudi and French Governments and attached protocol amended by the protocol issued in the royal decree M/11 of 6-5-1413 h, for a new five-year period as of Jan. 1, 1994 and the Ministry of Finance and National Economy has been authorized to conduct a study on the agreement.

The Cabinet also approved some appointments to grade 15 and grade 14 at the Ministry of Commerce, the Royal Commission for Jubail and Yanbu and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs.

Al-Sha'ir concluded by announcing that the Cabinet will resume sessions after three weeks on 23-12-1415.

Yemen

Arrested MAWJ Supporters To Face Trial

MM0105125495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Lutfi Shatarah and Naji al-Harazi: "Arrest of 'MAWJ' Supporters in Aden and Abyan"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London—Responsible security sources in Sanaa yesterday revealed that some supporters of the Yemeni Opposition Front (MAWJ) abroad were arrested in the governorates of Aden and Abyan. The sources confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that those held by the political security organs will be brought to trial soon after the completion of their interrogation. The security official declined to give the number of people detained but he stressed that they received funds and documents from abroad with the aim of carrying out activities detrimental to the country's security and stability. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the arrest of MAWJ supporters, Muhsin Muhammad Bin-Farid, member of the MAWJ Executive Committee and head of its Information Bureau, said, "any actions or activities carried out by MAWJ at home would only be through peaceful means guaranteed by the Yemeni constitution."

In another development, informed sources in Sanaa have denied the occurrence of any disturbances or confrontations between the security authorities and members of the public in al-Mukalla or anywhere else in Hadramaut over the past few days.

The sources, speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by telephone, said that the rumors spread by the so-called Yemeni opposition in exile in this connection are unfounded and part of the prevarication and attempts to misrepresent the situation in Yemen.

The sources refused to comment on reports about confrontations between members of the public because of differences related to the activities of fundamentalist groups in Tarim. They said that "even assuming that such a thing did occur, that kind of thing occurs in many countries and has nothing to do with politics or the claims made by fugitives." [passage omitted]

Ministry Criticizes Turkish 'Visits' in North

JN0205113795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1049 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA)—The Iraqi Foreign Ministry has stressed that the continuous visits to northern Iraq by a Turkish Foreign Ministry delegation to meet with the rebels proves Turkey's determination to violate Iraq's sovereignty and to commit grave mistakes which will greatly harm Turkey itself.

This came in a statement to INA today by an official Foreign Ministry spokesman commenting on Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Farhat Ataman's remarks on the situation in northern Iraq and the contacts Turkey holds with the rebels there.

The official spokesman strongly denounced these contacts which would encourage the outlaws to continue their rebellion and to spread instability in the region.

The spokesman said: The Government of the Republic of Iraq had earlier clarified its stand toward the tripartite meetings by the Turkish, Iranian, and Syrian foreign ministers, which intrude and discuss the situation in northern Iraq. Iraq categorically rejects these meetings, which are a violation of sovereignty and the principles of international law. This is in addition to the fact that these meetings represent flagrant interference in Iraq's internal affairs and a suspicious attempt by the governments of these states to flirt with the Americans at the expense of their peoples' interests, and to divert attention from the problems in their own countries.

The official spokesman added that the Turkish delegation, which visited Iraq recently and to which Farhat Ataman has alluded, repeated the same Turkish motives and pretexts for the Turkish invasion—pretexts which Iraq has categorically rejected. The Iraqi position was reiterated to the Turkish delegation; namely, the demand that Turkey immediately pull out its invading military forces from north Iraq and ensure that the invasion does not recur. The negative effects and harm which this operation will cause to Iraq have also been explained.

The spokesman said: Mr. Farhat Ataman noted that the Turkish delegation suggested the need to implement resolution 688. Turkey is well aware that this resolution was adopted with the support of Turkey itself and in coordination with the Americans, the British, and the Iranian regime with the aim of realizing devious political aims of imposing its [not further identified] trusteeship on this part of Iraq and using it as a springboard to spread instability in Iraq and the neighboring countries, especially Turkey itself. It is odd indeed that Turkey should be demanding the implementation of this resolution, knowing only too well the deviousness and serious nature of this resolution.

Concluding his statement, the official spokesman said: We have informed the Turkish delegation, which visited Iraq recently, of the correct analysis of Resolution 688; an analysis which rejects it because it represents the evil colonialist U.S. policy which is aimed at imposing trusteeship over Iraq and the region's states, interfering in their international affairs, and trying to divide them up. Therefore, Turkey should not be driven behind this dangerous policy, which will be detrimental not only to Iraq but to Turkey and the neighboring states as well.

Opposition Claims Regime 'Agents' Ambushed

NC0105051195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Due to our close observation of the movements of some criminal elements who have sold themselves to Saddam's regime and persisted in harming the citizens and bringing about the arrest and executions of scores of citizens in al-Basrah Governorate, the Islamic resistance forces laid in ambush on the road between the city of al-Basrah and Suq al-Shuyukh District.

According to our sources, the ambush stopped the criminals in a Toyota-90 car and arrested criminal Talal Ahmad Muhammad, a member of the ruling party's branch in al-Basrah and husband of criminal Hanawan Ahmad al-Shaykhli, member of the so-called National Assembly and head of the al-Basrah Women Association; and criminal Khalid Hamid Kazim, member of the ruling party's branch in al-Basrah.

According to our sources, the resistance forces obtained from these two criminals invaluable information on the detainees and the schemes of ruling party and its security apparatus against the inhabitants of al-Basrah. Our forces obtained other information on the terrorist intelligence apparatus's activities in some neighboring states.

Opposition: Germ Leak Causes Diseases in Baghdad

NC0105161995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leakages of germs from tanker trucks traveling from military industrial installations belonging to Saddam Husayn's regime have caused skin diseases among Iraqi citizens in the Baghdad suburbs. According to arrivals in Amman, symptoms of various diseases, such as skin swelling accompanied by vomiting, have afflicted dozens of women and children. They say that the spread of these diseases confirms the belief that the germs leaked from the trucks originate in biological warfare laboratories and plants.

Opposition Radio on Evacuation of al-Faw Citizens

NC0105051295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tyrant Saddam's regime authorities in the city of al-Faw in al-Basrah in southern Iraq have started to evacuate huge numbers of citizens from the city with the excuse that they do not have proper identification documents from the authorities in al-Faw.

According to a report by our sources in the south, the evacuation involved hundreds of the city's inhabitants who left during the aggressive war tyrant Saddam waged against the Islamic Republic of Iran and who returned after the war.

The report says that this oppressive measure by the tyrant's authorities has caused a further deterioration in the economic and social conditions at a time when most Iraqi citizens are already suffering from the sharp economic crisis resulting from the irresponsible policy of tyrant Saddam and his terrorist apparatuses.

Ramadan Criticizes Resolution 986, U.S.

JN3004200495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1811 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that the new U.S. Resolution 986 has refuted the United States' claims of international legitimacy.

In a statement during a meeting with students and teachers of al-Mustansiriyah University today on the occasion of the leader's birthday, he added: The U.S. resolution has actually showed that America was the side which planned and carried out the aggression against Iraq, and that it is still planning acts of aggression against it.

The vice president said: The U.S. policy was rejected even by the United States' allies who were involved in and contributed to the military aggression against Iraq and the blockade imposed on it. The world public opinion supports Iraq and the lifting of the blockade.

Column Examines Aims of Resolution 986

JN0105181995 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 22 Apr 95 pp 1, 6

[Article by Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, first under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information: "The Absurd U.S. Policy Toward Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again, the United States is behaving in a strange way toward Iraq. Certainly, this behavior cannot bespeak of ignorance. A so-called superpower cannot possibly be ignorant of the affairs, conditions, standard, development, knowledge, and nobility of a country such as Iraq, against which it massed more than 30 armies and launched an aggressive war with such savageness and barbarity that is unmatched in the entire history of mankind. Needless to say, whoever wants to fight another state has to be familiar with its conditions and affairs. This is a foregone conclusion.

Therefore, for the United States to come now—five years after the imposition of the blockade and four a half years after the aggression—and say that it is concerned about the serious nutritional and health conditions of the Iraqi population, as mentioned in the American draft resolution which was later passed by the UN Security Council as Resolution 986, is indeed strange.

Still, we must not rush matters and get angry. We should assume the existence of a slight degree of goodwill and avoid emotionalism and its negative effect on the dialogue currently taking place on the local and international levels regarding the resolution's effects and practical results.

We must examine Resolution 986 paragraph by paragraph. This is important in order to understand the resolution's physical, legal, and practical effects. We must not heed the news briefs which are disseminated by U.S. and western news media to deceive our people, nation, and the world. The method by which the American resolution has been drafted has all the traces of the English and the Zionists and their hatred for Iraq and its historical leadership. The resolution begins by making it a point to deal with Iraq as a land and a population living on a land; in other words, through all its approaches, the resolution is determined to take Iraq back to square one; to the pre-industrial revolution phase as Bush and Baker have dreamed of before launching the 30-state aggression. The resolution purposely and willfully ignores the fact that Iraq is an organized society and a strong and modern institutionalized state which, having achieved independence and liberated itself from foreign domination, overcame backwardness, and placed itself among the leading states of the Third World. Whoever sees what has taken place in Iraq during the past 27 years and compares it with what used to exist, will find that Iraq is not just a land and a population, but an institutionalized state in all the cultural, economic, social, industrial, agricultural, educational, and military fields. Being an institutionalized state, it has resisted the blockade for five years and continues to do so. Therefore, when some people show concern for Iraq, they must first know the country and then think about its humanitarian needs.

We do not deny the sufferings and hardships resulting from the unjust blockade, but these sufferings and hardships cannot be used by anyone as an excuse to compromise the entire country, trying to dissolve its society, destroy its unity and infrastructure, and take it back it to what it used to be in the age of decadence, when both land and population groaned under the yoke of the foreigner.

What is needed, in addition to food and medicine, is maintaining life with all its necessities. Can anyone imagine a country like Iraq without electricity and water supply and where irrigation and drainage installations are ruined, transport and communication means disrupted, and contacts cut off with the outside world? The resolution ignores all these necessities. They have purposely ignored everything. Still, let us follow the liar to his front door, as the popular saying goes.

Let us assume that we need food and medicine only—and we actually have a dire need for them—this need is not commensurate with the price which Iraq is required to pay. The equation before us in the resolution is as follows: Bags of flour plus a handful of medicines equal Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and continuation of the economic embargo. It is as clear and simple as that. Let us consider the details briefly.

First: The resolution tackles the problems of financing the activities of the UN agencies, the Special Commission, inspectors, accountants, observers, and possibly U.S. intelligence's plotting activities against Iraq as well. This is in addition to what the United Nations has withdrawn from Iraq's frozen assets. Someone has commented by saying that the United States wants to resolve the unemployment problem in its special agencies following republican control of both houses of Congress. Through such an approach, and in addition to what will be transferred to the Compensations Fund, more than 50 percent of Iraq's share of the revenues will evaporate.

Second: The resolution views Iraq and its revolutionary regime and historical leadership with suspicion. Thus, it places the Sanctions Committee in charge of everything in Iraq. It is the side which will approve Iraq's requirements program and the side which will ratify contracts. The committee is empowered to approve or reject anything.

Third: Following an external siege at sea, in the air, and on land, this resolution now calls upon Iraq to open its doors to the hordes of inspectors and observers who will enjoy full immunity. Only God knows how many they are and what their tasks will be. The English may be thinking of taking Iraq back to the twenties, when every Iraqi minister had an English shadow minister with full powers to monitor his performance.

Fourth: The resolution tries to legalize the anomalous situation in the governorates of Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Dahuk in such a strange way by stipulating that Iraq should finance the rebellion and the rebels and help resolve the problems which led to the civil war!! Now, is this permissible? Have we seen anything like it in history? As far as we are concerned, we do not know if such a thing has happened in the past!!

Fifth: More than that, the resolution purposely postpones any serious debate on lifting the blockade under Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687. The resolution's preamble attempts to link the removal of the blockade to "implementation of all the relevant Security Council resolutions."

Sixth: The resolution gives the UN secretary general and the Sanctions Committee the authority to suspend at any time the implementation of contracts on oil sales or the supply of food and medicines (Paragraph 11) if Iraq does not ensure fair distribution of medicines, medical supplies, foodstuffs, etc..

All that is needed is a report by a UN observer saying, for instance, that the distribution of flour in such and such district or subdistrict is unfair!!

Despite all this encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, it is strange for the American resolution to conclude by saying: "There is nothing in this resolution which can be construed as constituting an encroachment on Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The United States is behaving in a way which is far from reason and logic. By behaving in such an arrogant, excessive, and supercilious manner toward a sovereign, independent country, it places itself face to face with the principles of right and justice and law as stipulated in the UN Charter. If the United States has been able to peddle its oppressive resolution, it behooves Iraq to throw the ball back into the U.S. court by holding firmly to its legitimate right to lifting the oil embargo completely and immediately removing all the blockades in accordance with the Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 687.

The Iraqi people want an end to their entire crisis. They reject the attempt to prolong this crisis by creating other subsidiary crises.

The United States is behaving toward Iraq in an absurd way which is very similar to the policies of the colonial powers which preceded it, especially Britain. These policies are bound to fail. The Iraqi people and their Arab nation will put an end to them, just as they put an end to the British colonial era in the region. The United States and its fleets will then leave the area unregretted. March ahead.

Rabin 'Unequivocally' Supports U.S. Policy

TA0205083795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this morning that Israel unequivocally supports the U.S. policy against Iran and Iraq, and will join any international U.S. initiative of fighting terror. Mr. Rabin made the remarks after meeting U.S. UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright who is on a visit to Israel.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in their meeting, the ambassador raised the issue of construction in Jerusalem, and the prime minister said in reply that this issue is the responsibility of the Jerusalem Municipality.

Backs Containment of Iran, Iraq

TA0205110895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says Israel totally backs the dual containment policy of the United States against Iran and Iraq, and will join any international effort initiated by the Americans to combat Iranian-backed terrorism. The prime minister spoke to reporters after a meeting in Jerusalem this morning with the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright:

[Begin Rabin recording] We viewed the activities of the UN organizations in the region, especially in the Gaza-Jericho areas, and we believe that certain good, positive activities are carried out by these organizations. We discussed also, and you know our support to the policy of President Clinton of the dual containment of Iran and Iraq. We appreciate very much the statement by President Clinton two days ago focusing on Iran as a source of assistance to terrorism in the Middle East, and no doubt its support to Hizballah, to Islamic Jihad, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]—this is my addition, not the statement of the President. But no doubt today all terror activities against Israel from Lebanon and on the Palestinian side is carried mainly by those extreme Islamic terror groups that are linked, inspired, and assisted by Iran, and I believe that the call of the President to continue or to build international cooperation against international terrorism, against the countries that encourage and assist it, is a vital interest of the world, and no doubt, even more so to the Middle East, because they present today the danger to stability, security, and peace in the region. We promise you that we will support the President's policy. We will do it in our own way; we are ready to cooperate with every international activity that will set as its goal to reduce their capability to cause harm to what's so important to the Middle East and to the world. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Welcomes U.S. Decision on Iran

TA0205113595 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 May 95 pp 1,2

[Report by Hillel Kuttler, Batsheva Tsur, Marilyn Henry, and news agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Iran was behind January's Bet Lid bombing and last summer's blast that destroyed the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said yesterday. [passage omitted]

Christopher's statement came a day after President Bill Clinton called Iran an "inspiration and paymaster to terrorists," and said he will sever U.S. trade and investment with it, including American purchases of Iranian oil, which account for some 20 percent of Iran's oil exports.

"I am convinced that instituting a trade embargo with Iran is the most effective way our nation can help to curb Iran's drive to acquire devastating weapons and its continued support for terrorist activities," Clinton told a dinner audience, including Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, honoring Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry welcomed Clinton's decision.

"Israel believes that Iran poses a major threat both to the region and to the international community," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Dani Shek.

He added that Israel has long asked the international community to cut ties with Iran.

"President Clinton's announcement is perfectly compatible with Israel's position, and we welcome it," Shek said.

Uri Lubrani, coordinator of activities in Lebanon and a former ambassador to Iran, said Clinton's move showed "the US has come to the conclusion that it has to do something in its own right" against Iran. [passage omitted]

Clinton Line on Iran Seen as 'Perfectly Correct'

TA0205104095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Containing Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran's reaction to President Clinton's new trade ban was as predictable as it was expected. Washington's Middle East policy "is more biased towards supporting the Zionist regime than considering US national interests," Tehran's official statement said. Tehran Radio, expounding the official reaction, also wondered why Clinton should be targeting Iran's nuclear program while doing nothing to pressure Israel to sign the nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

One could assume the answer would be obvious, even in the obtuse corridors of Iranian power—because Israel is a democratic and responsible state and Iran is an belligerent, terrorist-sponsoring international outcast that has made total and violent opposition to any peace moves in the Middle East part of its state policy. Indeed Iran itself provides at least one good solid reason why Israel should refuse to be bulldozed into the NPT.

Lest the Iranians had any doubt about the reasons for Washington cutting remaining economic ties with them, Secretary of State Warren Christopher spelled it out as clearly as they could want—the United States is determined to stop Teheran's backing for terrorism and pursuit of nuclear weapons. It is clear that Iran's declared pursuit of "peaceful nuclear energy" is as disingenuous as similar declarations by Iraq during the 1980s. Why these two countries should need a headlong rush into nuclear power for other than mischievous purposes is a mystery. Not only are they sitting on some of the world's biggest oil deposits but, unlike Saudi Arabia, they are rich in a multitude of other natural resources.

Even so, there would of course be no objections to such a peaceful energy policy, if Iran could be trusted. But the world has once been bitten by the expansionist ambitions of Saddam Husayn and President Clinton is perfectly correct to take no chances a second time. Iran's recent behavior has only reinforced the belief that whatever pragmatic policies President Hashemi-Rafsanjani tried to bring to his country's politics have been crushed by the mullahs and their fanatical followers. The sudden rush to buy nuclear technology from cash-strapped Russia has been linked to other ominous signs of an increasingly belligerent attitude.

The CIA has informed Congress that Iran recently bought at least four ballistic missile launchers from North Korea, doubling the estimated number of such launchers it has. Iran has shown contempt for the views of the Gulf states in its occupation and militarization of disputed islands off the cost of the United Arab Emirates.

Clinton's timing of this announcement undoubtedly is meant to pressure Russia in advance of his meeting with President Yeltsin next week. It is unfortunate that Moscow continues to dig in its heels and insist on selling reactor technology to Iran. In the long run, Russia itself is just as much in danger of being on the receiving end of Iranian terrorism or nuclear blackmail as anyone else. Iran has long eyed the Moslem republics to Russia's south as its sphere of influence, although so far these fortunately have shown more interest in Turkey's model of a Moslem state than in Iran's brand of screaming fanaticism. It is to be hoped Clinton can now persuade Yeltsin that Iran's nuclear ambition simply isn't worth a squabble between the more civilized nations of the world.

Peres on Land Expropriation, Clinton Remarks

TA0205052195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 2 May 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Me'ir Einstein; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Einstein] I would like to start with the issue of the Jerusalem land expropriation and the expected Arab world reactions to this. Do you accept this decision?

[Peres] I understand that this is not a new offer or decision. It was made a long time ago, and its time has simply come now. In any event, I would like to study its details.

[Einstein] Perhaps there is something wrong with the timing of making the decision public?

[Peres] Look, every decision made comes with its timing. The government is not always free to renege on decisions made by previous governments. I, however, hope we will find the appropriate way of dealing with it. At the same time, I cannot accept the fact that the Arabs always come to us with demands, while not demanding enough of themselves.

[Einstein] I would like to address the Iranian issue, in the wake of the decision by President Clinton to impose an embargo on Iran. Do you believe this is a first step on the road to overthrowing the Iranian regime?

[Peres] Last night, I met President Clinton for quite a long conversation. I found him fully determined to fight fundamentalism and terror. This decision was not accidental, nor was the decision to announce it yesterday in no uncertain terms. This is not a matter of overthrowing a regime, it is about putting an end to a threat. After all, the President accepts that, after Communism, fundamentalism is the greatest threat that exists.

[Einstein] Do you believe the Western countries will join this Clinton move?

[Peres] Not all of them, not at once, and not fully, but the American decision has its weight and there is no doubt it will be felt in many capitals in the world.

[Einstein] I understand that the issue of the negotiations with Syria was also raised in your conversation with the President. Did you ask for his personal involvement to accelerate and promote the negotiations?

[Peres] I will not say exactly what I told the President. I will only discuss what he said. I believe he spoke about three things, of which we are aware, but I was nonetheless pleased he made the remarks to me and later repeated them in public: One, the peace process will not have the slightest effect on the U.S. commitment to Israel's security. Two, that despite the troubles, the President feels that things will move in all areas. Although it was not complete or dramatic, progress was made in all areas. For example, the Syrians understand it must be in stages; they understand that we must start with the issue of security; the fact is, and I quote, that the Syrians realize that it is impossible to settle for a cool, let alone a cold, peace. The President has never lost hope that there is still a possibility and time to attain peace with the Syrians as well. The third thing he said was that he will in no way lend his hand to forcing a solution on Israel or on either of the two parties. He repeated this in his speech, and this part of his speech was not written. I assume it followed our conversations.

[Einstein] Do you believe a breakthrough in the negotiations with the Syrians is expected in the near future?

[Peres] I would not rule it out. Look, we always want to speak in absolute terms. I cannot speak in absolute terms at all, but just as I cannot tell you absolutely that a breakthrough will be made, I absolutely cannot accept an estimate to the contrary.

[Einstein] What do you believe is the final date for reaching an agreement with President al-Asad, in view of next year's elections?

[Peres] I believe that the best political time is this year, before it ends. I am not saying that it cannot happen after that date, but this is the reasonable time for this—and not because of the elections here, but because of the U.S. elections. I would want to add that, to my pleasant surprise, if you ask about a deeper U.S. involvement, the answer is yes—not in the form of pressure, but in the form of assistance.

SHAS Warns Government Not To Renege on Expropriation

TA3004103395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Apr 95 p A3

[Report by Shahar Ilan]

[FBIS Translated Text] SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] will move to the fighting opposition if the government reneges on its decision to expropriate lands in Jerusalem. This warning was made over the weekend by Knesset Member Shlomo Benizri, chairman of the SHAS Knesset faction.

According to Benizri, "if the government cancels its decision on the expropriation, it will prove that it keeps surrendering to Meretz." Benizri added that if it does so, the government will justify its image as "a zigzagging government which is incapable of conducting a stable policy and backs down on every decision it makes."

Benizri welcomed the expropriations. "Any legal act which makes it clear to the other side that there is no chance of our making concessions regarding Jerusalem is welcome. Naturally, the land owners must be appropriately compensated." He charged that Meretz' opposition to the expropriation does not stem from its concern for the Arab residents but from its fear that the move might be interpreted as a government signal that it will not give up Jerusalem.

West Bank Expansion Reportedly Continuing

TA0205072195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 2 May 95

[Report by Gil Litman—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Litman] Far from the media's eye, the process of expanding the settlements with new inhabitants, new buildings for community service, and new housing units continues. The guiding principle is: Building will distance evacuation; and if government-funded construction works has been put on ice, private enterprise is the answer. The work is guided by Ze'ev Hever, a resident of Qiryat Arba' who heads Amana, the settling movement in Judaea and Samaria. The settlers consider him a man of action, not words. In quite a rare comment regarding the building work in the territories, he refuses to use the dramatic caption—a settlement campaign.

[Hever] Naturally, in spring and summer, families tend to be more mobile and make the decision to move. We work through ads we publish in a concentrated manner through Amana and the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and through direct activity we organize in the settlements. Thank God, despite the government's actions, hundreds of families will be moving into Judaea and Samaria in the coming summer.

[Litman] Most of the settlements in question are far from central Israel, far from the Green Line. Here is some official data we received from Amana: A new neighborhood of some 30 housing units is about to be built in Hinanit, near Nahal 'Iron in northern Samaria. Some 18 new apartments were recently purchased in the community of Qiryat Netafim, near Ari'el. The construction of 20 new houses, recently purchased, is currently being completed in each of the two western Samaria settlements of Aley Zahav and Pdu'el. The construction of these houses is financed by their owners.

In Judaea, settlements expand as well: Some 35 housing units in the settlement of 'Omarim, in the southern Hebron Hills, are being occupied these very days. In Livna, also in the Hebron Hills, a real housing campaign ended three months ago: 55 apartments were inhabited by new families, and 30 plots were recently put on sale there. The Mate Binyamin area, north of Jerusalem, is also developing rapidly. The sale of 10 new apartments in Talmon is currently being completed. When this is done, 20 more apartments will be put on sale. Some 50 new apartments are being built in Bet Horon, and Pinhas Walerstein, head of Mate Binyamin Council, gives us some more data:

[Walerstein] We have just completed the construction of 25 new housing units in Mitzpe Yeriho, 24 of which have already been sold. We have completed building 48 units in Psagot, and more than half of them have been sold, and we both know just what it means to buy a home in Psagot these days. I can give you similar details on almost every settlement like this.

[Litman] Another piece of data of special interest, courtesy of the head of the Mate Binyamin head: He believes that, roughly, some 75 percent of the Israelis who bought new apartments in the settlements within his council were not settlers originally. They came from inside the Green Line.

[Walerstein] Last year we were some 16,500 residents and today, natural growth included, we are 21,500. At least 75 percent of the newcomers did not live in the settlements before.

[Litman] In reaction to the above figures, the Peace Now Movement says the settlers are making a laughing stock of the government and the ministerial committee supervising construction works. According to Peace Now, the government must unequivocally ban any additional construction works, private as well as public, in the territories. Steps must be taken to start breaking up the settlements because, otherwise, the settlers will attain their goal and break up the peace process, Peace Now says.

Peres on Russian Nuclear Sales, Candidacy

TA3004044295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Responding to the reports that Russia is selling Iran nuclear equipment, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said he hoped the reports were not true, but he said every report of this nature must be investigated carefully. He said that Iran does not necessarily have the economic resources to buy such technology. At the same time, he said, Israel is concerned about the matter of selling nuclear information or reactors to Tehran.

On another issue, Peres said he would consider running for prime minister depending on progress in the peace process. Peres, who is currently in the U.S. capital, said the peace process is more important than anything else. He said he will make a decision based on developments in that arena.

Peres Rejects Syrian Security Demands, Iraqi Rumors

TA0205103295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres once again stated that Israel is rejecting the Syrian demand for parity in security arrangements. Speaking to Arab notables, Peres said he hopes that both countries will feel equally safe at the end of the process, but we do not accept that symmetric arrangements should be introduced. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the foreign minister added that Israel expects the peace agreement with Syria to mark the end of the war with the entire Arab world, all members of the Arab League, and the entire Middle East.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 2 May adds that, in his meeting with U.S. UN Ambassador Madeleine Albright, "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres revealed that Israel rejected an Iraqi approach to forge diplomatic and economic ties." The report adds "Peres said he believes the Iraqis are trying to circulate rumors about contacts with Israel, but that such claims were baseless."]

IDF Intelligence Chief Doubts Peace 'Vision'

TA2904181495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] There is hardly any chance to implement the vision of a new Middle East. This remark was made yesterday by the head of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch Uri Sagi who was addressing a closed forum of senior reserve officers. Our military correspondent Roni Daniyel reports that Sagi said that the Casablanca conference was a negative turning point in the process. According to him, the oversized Israeli delegation as well as the manner of conduct of its members was perceived by the Arabs as an Israeli tour de force, demonstrating its willingness to take over the Middle East economy. Senior Foreign Ministry sources expressed surprise at these remarks.

Speaking on the Syrian issue, Major General Sagi said that al-Asad is not eager to attain an arrangement with Israel, which is why he will not drop his demands for reciprocal security arrangements, which is the main stumbling block in the negotiations.

[Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 29 April carries an announcer-read report which adds: "The traditional Independence Day meeting of several hundred senior reserve officers yesterday was addressed by the defense minister, the chief of staff, and the heads of the IDF Intelligence and Planning Branches. The meeting was also attended by former Chiefs of Staff Ehud Baraq, Dan Shomron, and Moshe Levi, as well as Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon." The report later notes that "Speaking there, Gen. Sagi said that al-Asad will not waive his demand that Israel return to the borders of 4 June 1967, not the international border."]

Foreign Currency Reserves Reach 'Record High'

TA0205120295 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 May 95 p 8

[Report by Jose Rosenfeld]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign currency reserves reached a new record high of $9.513 billion last month, as a weak dollar encouraged speculators to take advantage of high shekel interest rates, the Bank of Israel reported yesterday.

Despite the central bank's interest rate cuts of three percentage points since March, real interest rates have remained high based on this year's low consumer price indexes.

As a result, the private sector contributed significantly to the $566 million rise in the reserves last month by selling their foreign currency holdings to cash in on the high interest rates.

The central bank's unlinked shekel loans to commercial banks now stand at 14 percent, with inflation running at 1 percent annual rate. [sentence as published]

Total foreign currency trading was $3.46b. last month.

The basket of currencies rose 0.63 percent against the shekel in April, an annual rise of 10.2 percent since the beginning of the year.

By contrast, the dollar lost 0.24 percent against the shekel last month, dropping at an annual rate of 5.63 percent since the beginning of the year.

At the end of last month, the currency basket exchange rate stood 0.49 percent below the "crawling peg's" midpoint.

Reportage on Israeli Prime Minister's Visit

Meets King Husayn in al-'Aqabah

JN0105163695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Highness Princess Tharwat, His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur received at the Royal Palace in al-'Aqabah today Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin, Mrs. Rabin, and the accompanying delegation.

The Jordanian and Israeli sides held talks over a working luncheon, during which they discussed regional economic projects that will develop this region in a way that raises the people's standard of living, so people can feel the positive impact of peace on their lives.

The conferees also discussed developing al-'Aqabah airport and the need to supply it with equipment, so it will become a regional airport that serves transportation and tourism in the region, and will thus have a direct economic impact on the lives of citizens throughout the homeland.

The two sides stressed the need to proceed with implementing the provisions of the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement and make every possible effort to achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by His Highness Prince 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn; His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, the military secretary of his majesty the king; Her Highness Princess Ghayda'; Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Senate member; Yanal Hikmat, adviser to his majesty the king; 'Abd-al-Ilah al-Khatib, minister of tourism and antiquities; Dr. Hani al-Mulqi, head of the Follow-up Committee for Implementing the Peace Agreement; and retired Major General Fawwaz Mahir. The meeting was attended on the Israeli side by the members of the delegation accompanying the Israeli prime minister.

Mr. Rabin and his delegation left al-'Aqabah this evening.

Israeli Prime Minister Mr. Yitzhaq Rabin said that his visit to Petra today was one of the fruits of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which will hopefully bring hope and real peace for the peoples of the region.

In press statements during his visit to the ancient city of Petra this morning, Mr. Rabin added: We have achieved the major step and we should continue to bring about peace for the region and its peoples and states. He pointed out that peace between Jordan and Israel is the cornerstone for building a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Mr. Rabin expressed admiration for Petra. He said the splendor of this ancient city, which is unique in its kind, shows the greatness of those who built it thousands of years ago. Mr. Rabin and his delegation were welcomed on arrival in Petra by Marwan al- Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali, Senate member and former prime minister; Yanal Hikmat, adviser to his majesty the king; 'Abd-al-Ilah al-Khatib, minister of tourism and antiquities; Husayn al-Habashinah, the governor of Ma'an; Dr. Ghazi Bishah, head of the General Department of Antiquities; and retired Maj. Gen. Fawwaz Mahir.

Mr. Rabin was accompanied on his visit by Mrs. Rabin; Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli side to the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations; and General Yatom, the military secretary of the Israeli prime minister.

Praises Bilateral Ties

TA0105150495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has completed his meeting with Jordan's King Husayn in al-'Aqabah and has left for Israel. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that following the meeting, Mr. Rabin said relations between Israel and Jordan are a foundation stone for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. King Husayn said he does not agree with those who claim that peace between the two countries is progressing too fast.

Our correspondent notes that the two also discussed the conclusion of the negotiations on the operation of al-'Aqabah as a joint airport for Israel and Jordan, the air corridor for flights to and from Jordan, and the joint development of the Dead Sea and Jordan Rift Valley.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Jerusalem that the signing of a trade agreement between Israel and Jordan is imminent. In a briefing to foreign correspondents, the spokesman said the discussions between Israeli and Jordanian representatives took place in a friendly atmosphere until late into the night. The agreement will give preferential trade treatment and trade advantages to both sides, but in particular to the Jordanian side. Israel and Jordan hope that the trade agreement to be signed will lead to a free trade agreement within three years.

Addresses Journalists With King

JN0105201695 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 1 May 95

[Report from the "News at Ten" program by Paul Hijazin in al-'Aqabah]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Talks between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli prime minister [Yitzhaq Rabin] in this port city of al-'Aqabah centered on economic issues meant to elevate the standard of living for people in the region.

The al-'Aqabah International Airport was one of the main issues that was talked about, and about ways to make it a regional airport. The two sides also reiterated their commitments towards what has been agreed upon in the peace treaty [words indistinct] a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

After their meeting, the two leaders talked to journalists about their discussions today.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Your Majesty: What should be done to make peace more warm between the two peoples of Jordan and Israel and exceed the level of peace between the leadership of the two countries?

[King Husayn] First of all, I don't believe that it is only peace between the leadership of Israel and the leadership of Jordan. In two democracies, the people approved the choice with an overwhelming majority and therefore provided the foundation for a real, warm, genuine peace based on mutual respect, a desire to cooperate and work and build and make up for all the many, many years that were lost.

Some people say we move too fast. I believe we are not moving fast enough at times to make up for all the lost years. I really hope—the prime minister [Rabin] has spoken of Petra and history and something that we still enjoy—I hope and I pray that we will succeed in laying the foundations for a lasting regional peace and seeing this peace develop and evolve and become a reality, and at the same time peace between the children of Abraham and their descendants for all times to come.

[Rabin] Excuse me, may I answer your question: It is to me, vis-a-vis the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel, to say that in Israel there is a national consensus about it. It was expressed in the voting in the Knesset that 105 members of the Knesset from all parties, out of 114 that attended, voted for it. But may I add: I believe leaders have to lead sometimes against what looks the public position the way that you, the media, describe. [sentence as heard] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Al-Kabariti on Peace Process, Regional Issues

MM0205111695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 May 95 p 3

[Report by Muhammad al-Majali and Mazin Hijazi: "Al-Kabariti: Jordan Rejects Peace on Israeli Terms; We Are Coordinating With Palestinians Regarding Land Confiscation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has stated that Jordan wants a just and comprehensive peace covering all aspects of life and partnership for the region's states, not peace on Israeli terms. He confirmed coordination with the Palestinians regarding Israel's confiscation of land.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he asked how Israel can talk about peace while absolutely refusing to open its nuclear installations to international inspection and to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and while continuing to confiscate Arab land. Al-Kabariti returned the day before yesterday from the Bandung and New York conferences where the treaty and the question of signing it were discussed.

Al-Kabariti added: We need a restoration of balance and security in the region without any exclusive privileges for any particular state. The peace process should be raised to a level that ordinary citizens would feel through what is accomplished in reality, with the peace process covering all tracks in the region. That requires continuation of the dialogue and negotiations with all parties concerned.

On the Jordanian-Israeli summit scheduled to begin today between King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, al-Kabariti stressed the importance of the meeting, which is taking place at a time of a slow-moving peace process, especially on other tracks such as the Syrian, Lebanese, and even Palestinian tracks. All these issues will be discussed at today's meeting.

Al-Kabariti added: We in Jordan hope for progress in the peace process on the other tracks before the Israeli and U.S. elections, which could impede progress and prevent a forward surge of the peace process in the region.

He said that the talks with Rabin would not be restricted to Jordanian-Israeli issue but would also cover all regional issues as well as the Israeli prime minister's visit to Washington next week for talks on the peace process in the region, particularly the Syrian track.

Al-Kabariti said that his talks with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's political department, in Amman yesterday focused on coordination of positions and the measures which could be taken against Israel's continued confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem to build new settlements for new immigrants in violation of the Madrid conference principles and the UN resolutions.

On his expected visit to Gaza, he said: Ziyad al-Majali, head of the Jordanian mission in Gaza, returned from Gaza recently but I have not yet examined the results of his meeting with officials there, but I will visit Gaza most probably after the blessed 'Id al- Adha to officially open the mission's headquarters there. In conclusion, al-Kabariti expressed appreciation of the Saudi Hajj Ministry's facilities provided for the Jordanian and Palestinian Arab pilgrims. He said that Jordan is against exploitation of the hajj occasion for political purposes unrelated to this common Muslim duty performed in the holy places by Muslims from all over the world every year.

He expressed optimism about Jordanian-Gulf relations. He said: There are numerous indications and initiatives on both sides for the restoration of normal relations between us and all the fraternal Gulf states. I sensed this in my meetings with several Kuwaiti officials, including Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad. They showed greater understanding and satisfaction with the current Jordanian position on Arab and regional issues.

Reportage on Australian Senate Delegation Visit

King Confers With Senate President

JN2904143695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received President of the Australian Senate Michael Beahan and his delegation at the Royal Hashemite Court today.

Talks dealt with the peace process and its latest developments. His Majesty King Husayn emphasized the need to realize comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in this region so that its people will have a secure and honorable life and resume their development march and to prepare for a better future.

For his part, Beahan expressed his country's appreciation of the wisdom and courage of His Majesty King Husayn and his continuous efforts toward realizing the aspired peace for the peoples of this region and improving their standard of living in an atmosphere of stability and with hope for a better future for coming generations.

Parliament, Senate President Meet

JN2904123495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of the Parliament have received visiting President of the Australian Senate Michael Beahan. Talks with Mr. Ahmad al-Lawzi, speaker of the Senate, and Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, speaker of the House of Representatives dealt with parliamentary cooperation between Jordan and Australia. The discussions also tackled the latest developments in the Middle East in the aftermath of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty. Radio Jordan's As'ad Abu-Layl spoke to Mr. Beehan following the two meetings:

[Begin recording] [Abu-Layl] Mr. Beehan, would you give us an idea about your meeting with the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament today?

[Beahan] Well, of course the meeting covered a range of things and one of the key things, of course, was the peace process and how it was going, and what Australia might do to assist. But, one of the main focuses was on the parliamentary process itself—the fact that the Parliament gives the opportunity for conflict to be resolved within a community, and that everybody has an opportunity to express views and opinions without that arising in conflict. And we believe that process, that democratic process, is the most important thing, and we welcome what is happening in Jordan in that respect. And the exchanges between our parliaments are a very important part of learning from each other as to better ways of handling that democratic process.

As president of the Senate, I am visiting to find out more about how the Parliament works, but also to learn about the peace process and trade relations and so forth. [end recording]

Prime Minister Receives Guest

JN3004161095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir today received Michael Beahan, president of the Australian Senate, and his delegation in the presence of Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral relations in various areas and ways to promote them. They also discussed regional and international issues of common interest, foremost of which are developments in the peace process.

The prime minister stressed Jordan's firm positions on the various regional and international issues, especially the peace process and the need to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in accordance with Security Council resolutions and the international legitimacy. He described relations between Jordan and Australia in various areas as good and said they were promoted as a result of the visits His Majesty King Husayn paid to Australia. He also stressed the importance of Australia's role in the peace process.

For his part, Beahan voiced his country's appreciation for the efforts Jordan is exerting under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn. He praised his majesty's wisdom, courage, and continued efforts to achieve peace for the region's peoples and to improve their standard of living and that of future generations.

Foreign Minister Views Ties

JN3004173995 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of the Australian Senate Michael Beahan has met Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti. Discussions covered bilateral ties and regional and international issues, including Middle East peace.

Senator Beahan said Australia was willing to join the United States and Europe in extending support to Jordan and the other parties to the Middle East peace process.

The Australian Senate president and the foreign minister also tackled trade issues and Australia's participation in the Amman economic summit and its position toward the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Hizballah Reportedly Sets Israeli Tank Ablaze

NC0105132695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah's information unit in Beirut has issued the following statement: At 0830 today, the Islamic Resistance spotted a Zionist troop concentration at security post 17 in Bint Jubayl. The post, which includes the Civil Administration building and the Israeli intelligence building close by, was the target of martyr Salah Ghandur's [suicide] operation a few days ago.

The fire support unit of the Islamic Resistance immediately shelled the post accurately and intensively, setting a tank ablaze and inflicting casualties among the personnel manning the post.

Three SLA Troops Wounded in Hizballah Attack

NC0205094795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance announced that at 0755 today one of its groups ambushed an Israeli force advancing toward al-Jabal al-Rafi'. A clash ensued during which members of the Israeli force were killed or wounded. The statement added that the Israeli artillery shelled the scene of the ambush. The fire support unit returned the fire, inflicting additional casualties on the Israeli force. [passage omitted]

Security sources have reported that eight Katyushas and 15 mortars landed on the Lahd [South Lebanese Army, SLA] positions in Zummarayya, Kawkaba, Kafr Huna, and Taw'amat Niha. In response, the Israelis fired approximately 100 artillery rounds at the outskirts of the villages facing these positions. Three members of the Lahd forces were wounded today, one of them seriously, by a Hizballah attack against the Taw'amat Niha position.

Islamic Resistance Operations in al-Biqa' Reported

NC0205064995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamic Resistance sources have reported that at 0755 today a Zionist force tried to advance toward Jabal al-Rafi' area. The Islamic Resistance mujahidin confronted the force. Violent clashes involving every type of weapon are now taking place between the Resistance fighters and the Zionist occupation troops.

Elsewhere, at 0550 this morning Islamic Resistance groups carried out a large-scale lightning attack with machine guns and rockets against four positions of the Zionist enemy and its Lahd [South Lebanese Army] Agents in Taw'amat Niha, Kafr Huna, al-Ahmadiyah, and Zummarayyah in Western al-Biqa'. Violent clashes are now under way between the mujahidin and the troops manning these positions. Our correspondent in western al-Biqa' has reported that the Islamic Resistance heroes destroyed the emplacements of the targeted positions, particularly in Taw'amat Niha, where the mujahidin scored confirmed hits inside the position.

Following these attacks, the enemy, as usual, bombarded the defenseless areas. The outskirts of 'Ayn al-Tina and Mashgharah have come under shelling. Islamic Resistance fire support returned the fire, scoring confirmed hits against the enemy.

Since 0800, Jabal al-Rafi', the hills of Sujud, and the Nab' al-Tasah basin have been coming under artillery bombardment from the enemy positions in al-Zaffatah. The woods in 'Arab Salim and Habbush are coming under machine-gun fire. Citizen Fatimah Mazra'ani in 'Arab Salim was wounded by sniper fire and taken to al-Nabatiyah Hospital for treatment.

Hizballah, Islamic Groups Discuss Embargo on Iran

NC0205070495 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Islamic Group delegation comprising Secretary General Shaykh Faysal al-Mawlawi, his deputy Hajj Ibrahim al-Masri, and Political Bureau Chief Dr. 'Ali al-Shaykh 'Ammar visited Hizballah's General Secretariat headquarters. They were received by Hizballah's secretary general, His Eminence al-Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah, in the presence of Political Bureau Chief Hajj Husayn al-Khalil and Political Bureau member Abu-Muhammad Hallaj.

The Islamic Group delegation congratulated Hizballah on the martyrdom operation carried out by martyr struggler Salah Ghandur against the Zionist Western Brigade and the civil administration in Bint Jubayl. The conferees also discussed current Islamic affairs and the U.S. decision to besiege the Islamic Republic of Iran by imposing a trade and financial embargo on it. They also discussed the presidential elections and the amendment of Article 49 of the Constitution.

Afterward Shaykh al-Mawlawi said: It has always been our custom to exchange visits with Hizballah officials to discuss developments in the domestic, regional, and international arenas. He emphasized that the announcement of the embargo decision against Iran to the Jewish Congress seeks to put pressure on the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon.

Egypt's Musa, al-Shar' Meet Reporters in Damascus

JN0205114295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus and Embassy staff.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, 'Amr Musa said he was carrying a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from President Husni Mubarak. The message deals with bilateral coordination and consultation on a number of important and current Arab issues, be it within the Arab framework or within the peace process and international issues of common interest. He added that he will discuss these issues with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

For his part, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' stated that consultations between Syria and Egypt have always served the Arab nation's interests. Speaking to reporters who arrived in Mr. 'Amr Musa's company, al-Shar' said: Naturally, there are sensitive and vital issues that we must discuss. Consultation and exchange of view on these issues is necessary. This reflects the importance that Syria, Egypt, and the region as a whole, attach to these issues.

Answering a question on Israel's recent measures to Judaize Arab Jerusalem, al-Shar' said: Arab Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied Arab territories, and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 apply to it. Therefore, the Israeli measures to change the demographic nature of Arab Jerusalem violate UN Security Council resolutions, international law, and the Fourth Geneva Convention. Syria will participate in the Arab League's extraordinary session and will voice this view. We hope the Arab League meeting will come up with a unified Arab position.

Answering a question on Syria's stand on renewing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], al-Shar' said: It is common knowledge that Syria's stand is firm and principled. Despite its belief in the NPT aims, and based on its stand against the existence of any nuclear weapons in the hypersensitive Middle East region, Syria will not approve the extension of this treaty unless Israel joins it and unless Israel places its nuclear facilities under international supervision.

Commentary Renews Call for 'Full Withdrawal'

JN0105152495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1150 GMT 1 May 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has not deviated from his line in his recent statements in which he rounded up his government's stand vis-a-vis the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track. Although he said it is impossible to achieve peace with Syria while keeping the entire Golan under Israeli occupation, he, however, did not go back on his arrogance regarding this issue. The Israeli prime minister still adheres to his declared stand rejecting full withdrawal from the Golan and supporting a partial withdrawal which will keep parts of the Syrian territory under occupation.

Rabin reiterated his statements on the existence of big gaps between the Israeli and Syrian stands regarding the basic components of a peace agreement. Despite all this, the Israeli prime minister could not ignore the seriousness of the Syrian stand; he admits that Syria is committed to achieving peace. Rabin's acknowledgement adds nothing new to what already exists. The entire world has become aware of Syria's commitment to the peace process. This awareness clearly exposes the party which is not committed to achieving peace. If the entire world and even Rabin himself admit that Syria is committed to achieving peace, where then is the problem? Why have the peace talks not advanced one serious step toward achieving this objective? Who is responsible for wasting more than three and a half years in holding futile talks and useless argument and in placing obstacles on the path of peace? Rabin himself volunteered to answer these questions when he reiterated his government's rejection of full withdrawal from the Golan. He who rejects withdrawal also rejects the international resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338 which stipulate the inadmissibility of occupying land by force and which call for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory.

The answers to these questions exist in Israel; they are with all Israeli officials whether in the government or in the opposition. The Israeli officials, regardless of their political affiliation, reject the bases of the peace process; they are trying to lay down new bases, or new conditions that meet their expansionist ambitions and objectives of imposing hegemony over the region.

Thus, the Israeli officials call for ending the state of war, opening the borders, establishing multifaceted relations, and for all kinds of conditions without giving anything in exchange for this. In fact, they want to establish an Israeli peace which guarantees their security and hegemony and which keeps parts of the Arab territory under occupation. They even reject the principle of equality [tasawi] in security arrangements, insist on building their conventional and nuclear arsenal, and refuse to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Do all these conditions and practices show that Israel really seeks to establish peace?

We will leave the answer to this question waiting for what Rabin will take with him to Washington and for his meeting with President Bill Clinton. We also believe that the Israeli prime minister will not present any serious proposals to give momentum to the peace process unless Washington exercises its role, which it has chosen, namely, a fair mediator and full partner.

If the United States, with all its power and influence, cannot convince Israel to follow the path of just and comprehensive peace this peace will not be achieved either before or after the Israeli elections.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Asks Pakistani Group's Leader To Mediate

LD0105150295 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After returning from Kabul, the deputy provincial leader of Jamaat-I-Islami of Pakistan said: [President] Rabbani asked esteemed Qazi Hussain Ahmed, leader of the Jamaat-I-Islami of Pakistan, to mediate. The deputy provincial leader, who recently returned from Kabul, told reporters at a news conference that Rabbani said the efforts of Jamaat-I-Islami and its leader during the jihad are commendable, and that they will never forget his services to the jihad.

Shabir Ahmad Khan, the deputy provincial leader, added: Rabbani described the Jamaat-I-Islami of Pakistan as the only source that can mediate between the jihadi groups in Afghanistan.

It should be mentioned that some time ago a delegation from Jamaat-I-Islami consisting of Shabir Ahmad Khan, Professor Ebrahim, Asrarollah, and Shakerollah visited Kabul at Rabbani's invitation.

Rabbani Discusses Issues with Gilani

LD0105171495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Professor Borhanodin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this afternoon received esteemed Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, leader of Mahaz-e Melli-ye Eslami [National Islamic Front], at Golkhanah Presidential Palace.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that during the meeting talks were held and views exchanged on the country's current military-political situation.

Esteemed Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani arrived in Kabul this afternoon to meet and exchange views with the country's leading authorities.

Amnesty Asks Taleban For Details on Mazari Death

LD0105143795 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amnesty International has asked the Taleban movement to give detailed information about the death of Ostad [Professor] Mazari. [Words indistinct] the organization has asked the Taleban in a report to explain to this international organization the situation under which Ostad Mazari and his companions were martyred so that the organization become fully aware of the Taleban's acts. The Amnesty International [Organization] adds: The Taleban should pay more attention to the cases of the accused people and act on the basis of evidence. The organization has also asked the Taleban to furnish information about a number of dead bodies which were found in Chahar Asiab in Kabul last month.

India

Parliament Deplores U.S. 'Threat' of Sanctions

BK0205090495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Members in both the houses of parliament today deplored the reported threat by the U.S. trade representative to apply 301 trade laws against India. In the Rajya Sabha, several members said that the United States cannot impose its trade laws as these are in violation of rules of the World Trade Organization—WTO. Raising the matter during zero hour, Mr. Ashoke Mitra, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], said the government should lodge a complaint with the WTO. A Congress-I member said the government will not succumb to any outside pressure and this has been demonstrated by it regarding the test firing of Agni [long range surface-to-surface] missile. Several opposition members alleged that the United States has issued the threat to India because parliament has not passed the patents bill. In the Lok Sabha, the issue was raised by the Samata Party member, Mr. George Fernandes.

Rao Urges Elimination of Discrimination, Poverty

BK0105134395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has said his government's major concern is the equitable distribution of the wealth generated through economic reforms to all classes and communities. Opening the Asia and Pacific regional meeting on tolerance in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the need is to eliminate discrimination and poverty and to promote tolerance. He said that only peace achieved through truce and nonviolence as preached by Mahatma Gandhi [Gandhiji] can bring real freedom and peace in the world. The prime minister said that India has shaped its policies in social, economic, and political spheres as per Gandhiji's vision, so our programs of reconstruction enshrine secularism and equity.

In his keynote address, the director general of UNESCO, Dr. Federico Mayor, called for promotion of culture of peace. He disclosed that UNESCO will consider observance of an international day of tolerance from this year. Paying tributes to Gandhiji, Dr. Mayor said he foresees the concerns of the coming century like women's uplift, universal education, and moral values governing the nations conduct.

Presiding over the function, the minister for human resource development, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, expressed concern over today's world fraught with intolerance.

The four-day meeting is being held as part of the UN Year for Tolerance, 50th anniversary of UNESCO, and 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Social scientists will deliberate to evolve an action plan on tolerance.

European Envoys Pay Visit to Jammu and Kashmir

BK3004160295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Major political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have appealed to the international community to exercise its influence to force Pakistan not to create trouble in the restoration of democracy through elections. Representatives of the Congress-I, National Conference, Bharatiya Janata Party, and the Janata Dal met ambassadors of European countries who visited Jammu today. The ambassadors—from Germany, France, Belgium, Spain, Greece, and the European Union—are on a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir to assess the situation in the state.

Meanwhile, six Pakistan-trained militants who surrendered to army authorities yesterday say that people view militants as looters and rapists. Talking to a group of newspersons, the militants said they decided to surrender as they realized the futility of the gun.

Inspect Migrant Camp

BK0105163295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Six European ambassadors today visited Kashmiri migrant camp at (Murshiwala), about 16 km from Jammu. The migrants pointed out the human rights violations committed by the Pak-sponsored militants. A delegation of Jammu Bar Association also called on the visiting ambassadors.

Meanwhile, 13 militants have been killed in different encounters with security forces during the last 24 hours. Five other militants were also arrested in the state. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from the militants.

Commentary Views Election Efforts in Kashmir

BK0205125595 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 2 May 95

[Commentary by S.L. Kaul]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao's, recent announcement in the Parliament about the government's efforts to revive the electoral process in Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest, the progress made by the delimitation of the constituencies in the state, and some other measures being taken in that direction are a clear indication of the government's resolve to hold elections in the state as early as possible. It is really significant that the prime minister's affirmation of the government's readiness to consider the proposal for grant of more autonomy to the state under the Indian Constitution.

Meanwhile, a sustained pressure has been maintained on the militants to contain their activities as the people are getting tired of the atrocities committed by these Pak-inspired elements. The overall atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir appears to have improved to start the political process and the conduct of assembly elections. There is growing disillusionment among the people over the gun culture of the misguided elements and the tall promises of the Pakistani agents. Nearly five years of militant violence has caused immense pain and suffering, particularly to the civilian population of the valley and the people would be keen about restoration of normalcy and a democratic set up.

Now, it will be difficult to say at this moment as to how many people will be able to ignore the fear of the gun and that of militants and mercenaries, and participate in the political process and cast their votes when elections are held. But, that is the only way to come out of the current unpleasant situation and to bring the people into the political mainstream and ensure better interaction between them and civic administration. An almost similar situation prevailed in Punjab only some time ago. The democratic government set up there following the elections has proved effective and viable by its performance and normalcy prevails in that state. So, it may not perhaps be necessary to wait for the fear of the gun to be totally eliminated and ideal conditions to emerge.

Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao has been right to indicate the government's resolve to hold elections in Kashmir as early as possible. Mr. Rao also informed the parliament about the successes achieved in the intensified operation by the security forces against the militants. Side by side, the government's move in releasing some of the secessionist leaders of Kashmir and their full interaction with political leaders in New Delhi have led to a comparatively relaxed mood.

The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has also reaffirmed that conditions were conducive for holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, but it was for the Election Commission to decide when the elections could be held. Another major step towards holding assembly elections in the state preferably before the expiry of the governor's rule on July 18 has been the completion and publication of the recommendations of the delimitation commission on Friday [28 April] last. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, have also indicated that the elections were most likely to be held in the last week of June or first week of July and consultations were on with major political parties in this regard.

The revision of the electoral rolls has also been completed by the state election office. According to some Kashmiri political leaders of the well established national and regional political parties, a large number of people do not sympathize with the militants and are against them. Besides many prominent leaders of different outfits in the valley appear to have renounced the gun and shown some inclination towards holding of elections. While the Indian Government is making every effort for restoration of democratic rule and to fulfill the aspiration of the Kashmiri people, Pakistan is trying to thwart the democratic process in the valley. There is incontrovertible evidence that Pakistan-sponsored terrorism including supply of arms, equipment, training, and infiltration and efforts to disturb the democratic process continue unabated. The Inter Services Intelligence, ISI, of Pakistan is also reported to be indulging in conspiracy to eliminate Kashmiri leaders who are interested in normalcy and peace in order to thwart the initiatives by the government for holding elections in the state. All this makes it necessary to continue to maintain pressure to demoralize and defeat the Pak-inspired terrorists and convince everybody that India is bent upon holding elections in the state and also make Pakistan realize that Kashmir is not a negotiable commodity.

Iran

Reza'i: Confrontation With U.S. 'Inevitable'

LD0205090795 Tripoli JANA in English 0812 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, al Maa 2, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—Mohsen Reza'i the commander of the Iranian Revolution Guard [Corps] has confirmed that a military confrontation with America is inevitable. In a speech he made yesterday Reza'i called on the Iranian forces to be ready for war and confrontation. He said that all indications show that the American government is preparing for war against Iran.

He added that the Americans are continuing their provocations for Iran, and that the armed forces have to be ready for that.

Daily Hints at 'CIA Link' to Japanese Disaster

LD0105210995 Tehran IRNA in English 2041 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 1, IRNA—An English daily said here today that the Oklahoma blast has thrown up new clues to the deadly nerve gas attack on a Tokyo subway a month before, with suspicion mounting that the American administration may have been behind the disaster in Yokohama in view of Japan's growing economic power.

KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL focusing on the claim of two leaders of the white supremacist Michigan militia that the Oklahoma blast was the Japanese Government's revenge for the gassing of the Tokyo subway which the United States had masterminded, said although the Japanese link to American blast "seems a bit hard to digest" the Yokohama side of the story "is not so unsavory, when one considers the shady record of the notorious Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in countries whom Washington views as political or economic rivals."

The daily in its editorial titled "Oklahoma's Japanese Connection", commented on the supposed resignation from the Michigan militia of Norman Olson and Ray Southwell after leaking the story, and said:

"Perhaps, it is part of the militia's racist tactics to deflect some of the criticism it is facing from a shocked American nation towards the economically strong Japanese. However, the claim raises the possibility that the Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth) which sent thousands of unsuspecting people to hospitals in Yokohama, could well be having an American if not CIA link."

It said that a glance at the United States' foreign policy and its overt and covert pressures on sovereign nations, "makes the Yokohama part of the claim hard to dismiss."

It drew attention to its editorial of April 24 titled 'Yokohama- Oklahoma', and asked readers to recall its words that "notwithstanding the phonetic similarity in their names both (cities) have recently been the targets of terrorism."

Cultists whether in America or elsewhere are superstitiously steeped in rhymed words.

The Oklahoma blast which has claimed over a hundred innocent lives brought home to Americans the truth that the real terrorists are in their midst, and not those oppressed and aggressed defenders in many world spots who are labelled by the Western media as terrorists for the crime of safeguarding their birthrights from encroachers.

The daily continued: "In America, at the moment, President Clinton is trying to play the actor's role with eyes fixed firmly on the next presidential elections. There may be crocodile tears in official circles for the victims of Oklahoma, but the Japanese card could also come in handy if needed.

"Do not the White House and the white militias, despite their different approaches to achieving white supremacy, share the same views when the strength of the yen abroad, or the Hispanics and blacks at home, are concerned?"

Reaction to Clinton's Decision To Ban Oil Trade

Radio Claims Further 'Enmity'

LD0105114795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an address to the U.S. Zionist leaders yesterday, U.S. President Bill Clinton announced that he has issued an order banning U.S. companies from buying Iranian oil and that the order will take effect in 30 days.

It seems that Clinton's order banning trade between U.S. oil companies and Iran is an effort—at the height of the election campaign for the next presidency—to lead the competition in attracting the approval of Zionist groups influential in domestic and foreign policy. Apparently the two competitors in the [presidential] race fail to take U.S. national interests into account and their main aim is to attract the support of influential Jewish pressure groups.

However, regarding the new decision of the U.S. President, it should be pointed out that, contrary to what may seem to be the case, U.S. concern is not over Iran's or any other country's access to nuclear weapons; rather, the aim is to bring pressure to bear on Iran so that the Iranian nation is prevented from equipping itself with modern technology and know-how for successful economic development and industrial progress. Within this context, it is also necessary to point out that the wholly contradictory and double-standard U.S. approach to the peaceful use of nuclear technology has been the subject of protest by other countries such as Russia.

From this point of view, the United States, in its dealings with North Korea, has agreed to provide this country with the necessary know-how and technology for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, but is denying Iran's right to obtain entirely similar know-how and technology. This is because Iran - without reliance on the United States—intends to cooperate with Russia to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. This seems unacceptable to the United States, which seeks to monopolize markets, and which is not able to accept the presence of rivals such as Russia and China, nor independent countries such as Iran.

The question now being asked is about the results of the oil sanctions imposed by U.S. companies against the Islamic Republic of Iran. From a domestic point of view the answer is clear: The Islamic revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran have faced ceaseless U.S. enmity and have experienced U.S. economic sanctions since 1980. Thus sanctions have never ended, so as to allow one to speak of a new one. This is one reason for the irrational and frenzied behavior of U.S. politicians who act under the influence of international Zionism but who will suffer the brunt of the effects of their own actions.

Furthermore, the fact that, in the presence of the leading figures of Zionist terrorism, Clinton again accused Iran of terrorism is itself evident of the mental dependency of the White House leaders and the refutation of the obvious truth that Iran's Muslim nation and all the Middle Eastern nations, particularly the Palestinians and the Lebanese, are the main victims of organized state terrorism controlled by Clinton's Zionist hosts.

Policy Seen To Ignore U.S. Interests

LD0105170595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The spokesman of our country's Foreign Ministry, in response to remarks made by U.S. President Clinton, has said: U.S. Middle East policy is so much in support of the Zionist regime that it does not even consider U.S. national interests.

Mr. Mohammadi [as heard] added: If the purchase of oil from Iran were in U.S. interests, the change of that policy would definitely be harmful to U.S. oil companies, and the U.S. decision will have no adverse effect on Iran's economic situation.

He added: In our view, today's economic world is based on competition, and Iran has many alternatives for its trade. [passage omitted—factual report on Clinton's remarks at the World Jewish Congress in New York last night]

Envoy 'Not Worried' About Ban

LD0105190995 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1829 GMT 1 May 95

[By Roger Williams, PA News]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Bill Clinton's ban on US trade with Iran will increase pressure for some oil producers to stop using the dollar for international trade, the leader of the Iranian mission in Britain said tonight.

The US decision showed President Clinton was under "desperate" pressure over his domestic policies, said charge d'affaires Gholam Reza Ansari. Britain has given no indication that it intends to take similar action.

Mr Ansari told a press briefing at the Iranian embassy in London: "We are not worried about the ban."

He said Iran was "awaiting a response" from an approach to Japan about the possibility of using the yen instead of the dollar for its international trade in oil.

President Clinton's decision, he said, would only increase Iran's determination to switch from use of the dollar. Attempts were underway to persuade other members of Opec to do the same.

Nor did Mr Ansari rule out retaliatory action against the US, saying: "Let's wait and see."

President Clinton has made it clear that the ending of US trade and investment with Iran was aimed against Tehran's bid to develop nuclear weapons, and Iran's support for international terrorism.

But Mr Ansari said Iran had a right to nuclear technology and rejected accusations of involvement in terrorism. "These are baseless accusations from the American government," he said. "They haven't been able to show the slightest evidence for their accusations."

The ban was in contradiction to the traditional US commitment to free trade, said Mr Ansari, adding: "But the gentleman has taken a lot of contradictory decisions in recent months so we weren't surprised. We are aware that he is under desperate pressure in his domestic policies. He hasn't been successful so he had to defuse these pressures somehow."

The ban would not stop the economic development of Iran, he said. "With the world demand for oil, I think it will not take a long time to find customers for our oil and we will do that."

Asked if the US ban was likely to put pressure on Russian President Boris Yeltsin to stop cooperating with Iran over plans for a nuclear reactor, Mr Ansari said: "We have very good relations with the Russians and we will continue to do so. I don't think they will give up under such pressure but it's up to them."

An embassy spokesman said that of three million barrels of oil exported each day from Iran, 600,000 barrels went to US companies, although not all of that ended up in the US itself.

Iran had been increasing its non-oil production including carpets and handicrafts, much of which was not intended for the US market, and this accounted for a record one-third of exports last year, he said.

Oil Prices Seen Rising

LD0105164695 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, May 1, IRNA—Oil prices here surged again following president Clinton's announcement to the Zionist lobby that his administration would proceed with a unilateral trade ban on Iran that will extend to U.S. oil subsidiaries.

North Sea Brent benchmark crude opened Monday [1 May] morning 30 cents up at 20.30 dlrs per barrel (dpb) for May delivery, bringing the price rise to more than 3.50 dpb since further sanctions were first mooted more than a month ago.

U.S. oil firms have warned Clinton against banning foreign affiliates of American companies from lifting Iranian oil as shortsighted and self-defeating.

Analysts have anticipated likely price increases as U.S. companies are forced to look for substitutes in an already tight market for sour crude, while Iran is expected to be able to easily switch to other traders.

Warnings have extended to the likelihood of the Clinton administration becoming mired in lengthy legal action from foreign subsidiaries of American firms facing thousands of job losses.

Clinton announced that he would resort to use oil as a political weapon against Iran in a speech to the World Jewish Congress Sunday night in what was said to be as an example to convince other countries to follow.

But according to PETROLEUM ARGUS, Japan, representing Iran's biggest eastern market, was unlikely to follow by succumbing to U.S. pressure. It recalled that Washington failed to persuade Tokyo, as well as European creditors, against rescheduling Iran's debt last year.

Daily Reviews Oil 'Debacle'

MS0205093995 London THE INDEPENDENT in English 2 May 95 p 25

[Report by Mary Fagan: "Ban on Iran Oil Inflates Prices"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Oil prices surged after President Clinton's weekend announcement that the United States would extend its ban on Iranian oil to cover trading outside the US.

The news came as Mobil announced 4,000 job losses from its worldwide workforce in a cost-cutting drive to save hundreds of millions of dollars.

The price of Brent futures rose to about $19.40 per barrel at one point yesterday, compared with an average of less than $17 in the first quarter of the year, although City analysts said it is not clear whether the increase would be sustained.

The US has had a ban on Iranian oil since 1987, but companies have been able to trade through their operations overseas. US firms buy about $4bn worth of Iranian crude a year accounting for one quarter of the amount exported—although sales have been dropping back as companies anticipated an extension on the embargo.

Groups to be hit include Exxon, Mobil, Texaco and Chevron. Industry sources said the US oilfield services sector would lose out to European rivals not constrained by the embargo and that jobs would go.

It remains unclear, however, whether there will be any impact on major European companies such as Shell and British Petroleum [BP] which have significant activities in North America. There is some political support in the US for banning the trading activities of any firm which deals with Iran, even if they are domiciled overseas. President Clinton is believed, however, to be against extending such controls to foreign-owned companies.

A spokesman for BP said the company could not comment until the detail of President Clinton's plan had been analysed. Shell International said: "It is a political matter and not one we have a view on."

Iran produces 3.5 million barrels a day, of which 2.5 million are exported. Analysts said other countries are unlikely to join the ban. There is also a view that the US oil firms will be able to find alternative sources of crude in the Middle East and Russia.

Philip Morgan of Paribas Capital Markets said: "There is a lot of nervousness and uncertainty. The price has gone up but the fundamentals suggest it could come down again quite sharply. Other analysts also said it was too early to assess the implications of the US clampdown.

The oil debacle coincided with Mobil's announcement of job cuts. It will shed 4,000 jobs from its worldwide workforce of 51,000. The move, which targets support staff, will save the group $750m a year. Mobil said it expects to take a $300m after-tax charge in the second quarter of the year.

About 850 of the jobs will be lost in Europe, but the impact, if any, on the UK is not yet known. Mobil will phase out its research and engineering centre at Princeton, New Jersey, and will move the activities to similar facilities elsewhere.

EU Issues 'Cool' Response to Embargo

MM0205101195 London THE GUARDIAN in English 2 May 95 p 10

[Report by Ian Black in London and Martin Walker in Washington: "Britain and EU Resist Embargo on Iran"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] American plans to impose a trade embargo on Iran to punish it for trying to acquire nuclear weapons and supporting terrorism met with a cool response from Britain and its European Union partners yesterday.

The Clinton administration under strong pressure from Congress to get tough with Tehran, denied the embargo had left the United States at odds with its allies in the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries.

"We think that this will give us an opportunity to talk with them in the strongest terms and I hope that they will take action that is parallel to ours," said the secretary of state, Warren Christopher. "Iran is an outlaw state. Its repugnant behaviour has not changed... A regime with this kind of record simply cannot be allowed to get its hands on nuclear weapons.

"With its proven record of terrorism and aggressive ambitions Iran cannot be given the benefit of the doubt. The president's action sends an unmistakable message to friend and foe... We view Iran's actions as a major threat to US interests and international security."

The White House said there were indications that some G7 members were reviewing their "economic engagement with Iran" after Japan suspended its financing of a dam project.

But British officials in the Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry made it clear that there was no intention of following the US lead or of even reviewing economic relations with Iran before the G7 summit next month.

"Our relationship with Iran is rocky," said one well-placed Whitehall source. "It goes up and down with the wind but we're not reviewing it."

Other EU members are unlikely to be any more enthusiastic about an issue that could threaten a new transatlantic row after recent rifts over Bosnia and Iraq.

Italy and Germany said only that they would study the US announcement before commenting. "To be quite blunt there is just no way we will go down this road," said one European diplomat.

In Washington, the issue was seen as stressing to Moscow how seriously the US is taking Russia's $800million (500million pounds) deal to sell nuclear power technology and build a nuclear power station in Iran. Along with disputes over Chechnya and Nato expansion, the Iranian nuclear deal will be a highly contentious issue at Bill Clinton's summit meeting with Boris Yeltsin next week.

The US move also comes in the final stages of the United Nations conference reviewing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, with Iran, a signatory to the treaty, campaigning hard against the unconditional renewal the world's five declared nuclear powers want.

Officials in London were uncharacteristically firm in opposing the US. Britain stood by its commitment to the EU's "critical dialogue" with Iran.

"We have regular and tough sessions that make clear we have the same concerns as the US does about nuclear proliferation, the Middle East peace process and terrorism," a Foreign Office diplomat said.

"But... we do not believe a ban could be agreed or that it would change Iranian behaviour if it could."

Britain is Iran's fifth largest trading partner, with exports of 289 million pounds and imports of only 133 million pounds. Military equipment and dual-use technology are not sold and there is no concessional financing.

Britain is more sympathetic to the US position than its EU partners. Germany, Iran's biggest trading partner and creditor, has been singled out by Washington for its cosy relationship with Tehran.

But Britain's position is complicated by the Salman Rushdie affair. A new EU initiative is trying to secure a "ceasefire" in attempts to kill the author without a formal lifting of the fatwa ordering his death for alleged blasphemy.

US and British officials are to meet soon to discuss terrorism and Iran's role in it before the G7 summit, but Whitehall sources insisted there was no connection between this and Washington's new initiative.

US domestic politics also played an important part. Mr Clinton's executive order against US corporations trading with Iran, which he promised to sign this week, is less Draconian than the bills being pushed in the House and Senate by Republicans, who want to extend sanctions to foreign companies dealing with Iran.

US oil corporations, which had been paying $4 billion (2.5billion pounds) a year for 600,000 barrels a day of Iranian oil about a quarter of Iran's output agreed yesterday there was enough flexibility in the refining system to ensure there would be little impact on oil prices.

Iran, meanwhile, insisted that the US move would fail. The Iranian foreign ministry said: "If purchasing Iranian oil was in the interest of America then any change in such policy will definitely be against the interest of American oil companies. The world of economy is the world of competition and Iran has various alternatives for its trade."

Press Calls U.S. 'Main Loser'

LD0205111195 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 2 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 2, IRNA—The English press in Tehran has brushed aside the impact of U.S. President Bill Clinton's much-mooted trade embargo against Iran, expressing confidence in the divine principles which helped the nation weather all storms, and pointing out that the main loser will be the United States of America.

"From the Iranian point of view", writes KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in its editorial to appear on the news stands Tuesday [2 May] morning, "it (the trade embargo) is neither important nor of any particular rsignificance," considering the fact that for the past 17 years the U.S. has been behind every plot against Islamic Iran.

It says "the truth perhaps not duly realized by the foes of the Islamic republic of Iran, is that millions and millions of Iranians are willing to pay a price, however great to safeguard their Islamic homeland and its independence.

"The thousands of Iranian martyrs, including Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari, the first Iranian leader who was assassinated on May 2, 1979, met their martyrdom smilingly," says the editorial titled "another embarrassment awaiting Clinton"

In his speech on Sunday to the World Jewish Congress, Clinton announced his decision to severe all trade ties with Iran, and urged western countries to follow suit. It is worth noting that Clinton's decision, obviously to garner Jewish support for his re-election campaign, does not have any buyers even at home where both political and economic experts have questioned the president's wisdom in trying to worsen America's economic woes. "The utterance coming out from the month of a young and relatively inexperienced politician makes no one happy except the person who uttered it," comments KAYHAN.

The paper adds that if Clinton expects European countries or Japan to follow his lead against Iran "he stould have been briefed by his advisors that it is expecting too much. At what cost to their own economy and legitimate interests should these nations make sacrifices? And for what?

"The advanced nations of the world do need oil. Big oil resources exist in the Persian Gulf region. The 'other countries' know that all the oil fields in that region, except those possessed by Iran, are under the U.S. control. "It doesn't seem rational and businesslike to depend on a single source. Why should the industrialized west and Japan deprive themselves of a reliable source of energy?"

Saying that sovereign nations will never sacrifice their integrity for Washington's sake, KAYHAN takes note of the rejoicing of German people at the departure of U.S. troops after four decades from their soil. It points out that "a similar attitude towards the U.S. is shared by other developed countries, particularly Japan. The Japanese have no soft corner for the Americans. Maybe they have forgotten the tyrannical rule of General Douglas MacArthur during the occupation of Japan after World War II. But certainly they have not forgotten the inhuman and unwanted action on the part of Washington in dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki fifty years ago. The Japanese were further shocked at the arrogance shown by Clinton in praising Harry Truman for having taken the decision to use nuclear weapons against Japan."

On charges of terrorism levelled against Iran, KAYHAN remarks citing several instance where Washington had to take back its words, that the accusation holds no water and people of the world know that the U.S. is again lying.

In respect to Clinton's hopes that he would be able to stop Iran from gaining access to nuclear technology, the daily says: "We would just like to say that in the present day world anything can be bought or sold, be it nuclear technology or Iranian oil."

In conclusion KAYHAN remembers "what was said by the late Imam Khomeyni (may God bless his soul): The U.S. can't do a damn thing."

Meanwhile, another English-language daily, 'TEHRAN TIMES' writes in its editorial to appear Tuesday morning that trade embargo has no impacts whatsoever on Iran since "it is a matter of only one or two years since the U.S. has emerged as one of Iran's major trading partners. "For a decade before that, the U.S. left no stone unturned in creating obstacles in the flow of business in Iran. The U.S. has appealed to one country after another, in the east and west, to maintain a gulf with Iran."

But, says the daily: "What has actually happened? Germany, Japan, France, Italy and Britain have become the major trading partners of Iran, as was the United States until Sunday. The reason for this is that westerners love money." TEHRAN TIMES expresses confidence that as in the past "Clinton's move will again backfire."

The editorial titled "Clinton's anti-Iran move doesn't move?" focuses on the place and timing of the ancouncement which betrays the unprincipled and unethical side of policy-making in the U.S., and which according to the daily is a form of terrorism.

"One should note that President Clinton made this anti-Iranian threat at a dinner held in honor of Edgar Bronfman, a wealthy Zionist who made his fortune selling liquor. Getting rich off the people's intoxication is another form of terrorism. America's internal terrorism is not the bombings at the World Trade Center and Oklahoma, but valuing money [above] the well-being of the people," remarks the daily. It also takes note that Clinton's own aides confirmed that U.S. companies and workers will suffer if Clinton's embargo is implemented.

"Oil prices will rise which will, paradoxically, be to the advantage of Iran," adds the editorial.

TEHRAN TIMES concludes that even if the American action were to affect Iran, it will not be a major problem in view of the fact that "Iranians have become accustomed to adversity. "We suffered the hardships of a revolution to overthrow a dictator, eight years of war - while the world did nothing but watch, and with God's help we will survive this."

Rafsanjani's 'First' Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2804185595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Apr 95

["First" Friday prayers sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 28 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Since there are many issues I wish to talk about, I am going break with tradition and not talk about social justice this week. [passage omitted]

Perhaps one of the most important issues of today in all the countries of the world and in our own media over the past few weeks has been the reactive and illogical provocative acts by the Americans against Iran and our Islamic revolution. Of course, this is nothing new; however, their provocation in this juncture has found a specific meaning and grabbed serious media attention. I think it is essential that this is discussed and analyzed by our own public. Of course, this debate is on the agenda, but this issue should be discussed more deeply.

Concerning this, I issued a statement a couple of week's ago and pointed out the main points of the debate. The people are aware of this; I am not going to repeat myself. I want to give an analysis of all the issues concerned.

Well, we have no doubt whatsoever that the Americans never had a suitable attitude toward the revolution. In fact, based on their conditions, they have had ups and downs in their attitude toward the revolution. Currently, their attitude is on the rise, their violent attitude has escalated in the political field, which has clearly reached an illogical stage. And practically speaking, they are putting pressure on those capitals and governments in which they think the Islamic republic has an interest.

Our society must be extremely aware in this historical juncture, especially the country's media and public podiums. They must act responsibly and with great vigilance in this juncture. Of course, although I have said that in a sense, this issue is not new, its escalation is new, and it is indicative of certain covert issues we are discovering gradually. Therefore, vigilance is very important.

One of the points forming my discussion today is talking about vigilance and warning writers, public speakers, and media personalities, especially those who speak at holy podiums such as the Friday prayers, to be extremely vigilant. One of the issues that has become clear so far is the tactic used by the United States and Israel—these two countries are currently confronting us more than the rest. They are trying to dishearten the people and create a feeling of hopelessness in society about their future. Threatening the people about the future and launching a psychological war. Psychological wars usually have other hidden objectives.

We must not help the enemy with our words, writings, and deeds to succeed in using the empty utterances of caring people who talk in order to improve society, to feed us back with propaganda using their psychological methods to dishearten and disappoint the people about their revolution. [passage omitted]

Fortunately, despite the 16-year propaganda bombardment and spreading negative news, they have not been successful in deceiving our people. [Crowd chants in support: God is great! Khamene'i is the leader! Death to counter-revolutionaries! Death to America! Death to Israel!]

Here I should really thank our people for their vigilance and intelligence. They are under heavy propaganda bombardment by the considerate but unwise allies as well as anti-revolutionary tribunes outside the country. But they continue to maintain their presence very much like the early days of the revolution and their presence is possibly even more substantial, accurate, and intelligent. They smash the teeth of the enemy through their presence in whatever event that might take place. We have seen many examples in the past several months. With regards to this, I want to give examples to clarify the argument for you and to put the heart and mind of society at ease. In the past few weeks I have visited Khuzestan Province and I also travelled abroad. In reporting these trips, I would like to argue and show the degree of the failure of the foreign enemies, particularly the United States and their defeatist elements inside the country, to create an atmosphere of pessimism and passivity among the people and isolate the Islamic republic internationally. The examples are honestly clear. Of course you are well aware of them yourself, but my argument and analysis could be also useful.

You might have heard about my five-day trip to Khuzestan. If people were to have distanced themselves from the revolution because of difficulty and torment, the best place should have been there. You know that Khuzestan was one of the most intense theaters of war for eight years. Khuzestan was the prime target of the enemy in its attack on Iran. The enemy called the province Arabistan and published maps. It aimed at taking the area from Iran to either annex it to Iraq or to create an independent Arab country. This would have cut the country from its economic source. The people of Khuzestan have been through much suffering. Several of their cities were totally destroyed: Khoramshahr, Abadan, Bustan, and Susangerd. Their provincial capital, Ahvaz, was nearly empty and abandoned. Those who were at the war fronts know that the city was under constant bombardment. Enemy bunkers were 15-20 kilometers from the city and the enemy would bombard it whenever it wanted. You could hear the sound of enemy aircraft over Ahvaz almost every day. [passage omitted]

The people of Khuzestan have suffered much. Logically speaking, if people were to distance themselves from the revolution because of these claims, not facts, that exaggerate difficulties and disturb people, then the people of Khuzestan should have distanced themselves. The ethnic mix of the area is also an issue. There are Arab, Bakhteyari, Lor, Fars, and various other ethnic groups living there. Despite the ethnic mix, despite the difficulties of war, and despite the post-war reconstruction, you should have seen Khuzestan during our visit. I must confess that people's presence was so great that I fail to describe their importance, the depth of their loyalty, or their love for the revolution. Cameras also fail to reflect these. Writers fail to explain them. It was beyond the realm of description. [passage omitted]

Why are people like this? What is it in the mentality of the United States that inclines it to approach the issue in this way and to try to distance the people from the revolution? Even if the so-called economic and technical moves and pressures were to succeed, their results would been very little. Their success would have only meant more difficulty for the people. Well, here are the people. Could you do worst than Khuzestan? Your pressure could not be worse than what the people of Khuzestan have suffered. The people have passed their test a hundred times. [Passage indistinct] With their flesh and bone, the people of Khuzestan feel that the government and order is seeking justice. They understand that in the first five-year plan a great deal of the country's resources were transferred to Khuzestan to rebuild the villages and cities destroyed in war. They visit these villages. They see that the pre-war mud-brick huts are now totally modern urban houses. They have water, electricity, schools, health, and well-built houses. [passage omitted] People understand that there are difficulties but they also see the great projects that are being carried out across the province, such as the great dams over the rivers of Karkheh, Karun, Marun, Zohreh, and Jarahi. [passage omitted] Of course ordinary people are not in the plains to see the dams or the sugarcane project. They hear about them or someone speaks about them. People see that their government is returning to them what was denied to them before. They see that the government has reconstructed the war-damaged areas with speed. They see that it has turned poverty-ridden villages into habitable places. That is why they show loyalty. [passage omitted]

If everyday tasks are not done, the people will lose heart over the revolution. They claim that the people do not understand about infrastructural work.

Why do we portrait our people as uninformed and as lacking far- sightedness. They even think about the next generation. They are thinking about their children, just like you and I. They too are not ready to consume all that they have today and not spare a thought for tomorrow. They grasp things. That is happening domestically. And other things are happening outside.

The United States cannot isolate us domestically. They imagine that they have isolated us abroad. The most widespread issue that is raised these days, unfortunately, is the issue of isolating Iran. The latest visits to India and Georgia by an Iranian delegation were demonstrations for you inside and them outside to understand that the isolation of the revolution is a lie. What took place in India, as well as Georgia...[does not finish sentence] Since they did not have communication facilities in Georgia, they were not able to report the scenes properly; their communications are not so good, but proper reporting was carried out in India. I will tell you one or two instances so that you can see what honor you truly have abroad, so that you can see what respect you caring, loyal, patient, steadfast, and content people have created abroad for Iran by your support for the revolution. It is a respect that is truly a source of pride, even for future generations. We may forget after a few months but the sweetness of those scenes that were created by the Indian people who had come to see the honor of the revolution is truly enjoyable for the lovers of the revolution. Such scenes must not be forgotten.

Before our visit to India, the Western media had made a lot of propaganda to create a negative atmosphere. One was that we had postponed our visit to India a few months earlier because of a plague epidemy. The media were provoking the Indian public opinion. There were the issues of Kashmir, the Babri mosque, and others. But both the Indian people and government demonstrated the honor with which they hold the Islamic revolution in their hearts and minds. That does not relate to me. I am an individual just like you. Had anyone else been in my place and gone to India, the same thing would have happened. [passage omitted] The television showed very good scenes but the camera cannot show everything. [passage omitted] I know that neither the Americans nor the Europeans and others dare show those scenes from their satellites. When they find something small, which is a deficiency of ours, then they show it a hundred times; for example, an explosion, a strike, or a problem. Those will be shown constantly as pre-feature films. [passage omitted]

The Americans had planned to make our visit unimportant. Their finance secretary arrived there at the same time as us. Finance secretary means the person who holds the key to the treasury; after all, U.S. power rests on its treasury and wealth. They sent someone there to make promises and thus make our visit unimportant. The spectacle of the presence of the Iranian delegation overshadowed the presence of that U.S. secretary to such an extent that he himself acknowledged—this is exactly his interpretation, we are quoting this from the Indian press. He said: The presence of the Iranian president overshadowed everything and if I knew this was going to happen I would not have visited India. [crowd chants of God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, death to the anti-revolutionary, death to America]

Then, they realized that this was a bad thing to say. So he said they did not know the Iranian delegation was visiting India. Then, in a news conference, when I was asked about it, I said that the U.S. Government with all its information should have known about the visit, which we announced a few months earlier and mentioned a date for it. If the United States does not know about the visit, then what is happening to its information system? All its unwise decisions are due to this lack of information. Of course that was an incorrect pretext.

The same thing happened in Georgia. They sent their deputy energy secretary to overshadow our visit there. That was so embarrassing for them, and even papers did not mention his visit. They then learned a lesson from what happened in India and did not raise a voice about it.

In such circumstances, the White House intends to isolate Iran. Is that isolation? You yourself mention that the presence of a delegation in a country like India with a population of 900 million can overshadow all events, what kind of isolation is that then? What kind of unwise measure is this that they are adopting today? They assume that this country can be forced into isolation. Of course we are not afraid of being isolated. [passage omitted]

I wish you were in Georgia to see what I witnessed there. I was in an aircraft manufacturing plant. That is a plant with 54 years of experience in aircraft manufacturing. It is one of the oldest plants that makes fighter aircraft. Some 5-6,000 aircraft have been made there, including Sukhoi, MiG, and Yak aircraft. There were many experts and technicians working there. It is obvious that such people work in a plant with some 54 years of experience. I take God Almighty as my witness that there I experienced the same welcome as that when I visit an Iranian plant at home. [passage omitted]

This revolution cannot be isolated in this way. You honorable people who are in Iran, don't let them feed on your negative utterances and through evil propaganda give the impression to the Muslims outside—they cannot do anything inside—that the government and people are distanced, the people are disheartened and the rest.

This really is a sin, it is a tyranny against a people who have been outstanding in the face of difficulties. It is a sin to say that they are disheartened. What are they disheartened about? Their revolution? The people have loved Islam, the revolution, and the imam, and they still do. The people understand that they have been freed, they understand that they have become independent, they understand that their country is being reconstructed. They know they are on the right path. And if there are difficulties along the way, they tolerate them with all their being. In fact, we had a revolution to tolerate difficulties, we knew a revolution would have difficulties, but God did not want us to have many difficulties. God helped this nation. [passage omitted]

*Bushehr Natural Resources Protection Discussed

95LA0179B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Mar 95 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] Bushehr—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI—Today's world and humanity are witnessing great changes in the environment. Although until recently the industrial onslaught on the social life of human societies required the various nations to struggle, the importance of renewable natural resources as a divine blessing for today's and tomorrow's human generations to obtain living space worthy of today's civilized humanity is now more evident than ever.

In today's world the natural resources of nations are no longer internal matters. They have taken on international significance. In its natural resources, the world has acted as a single heart, and continued human life in the future is directly related to the way present society treats these resources.

Historical evidence and research in ancient studies show that the people on the shores of the Persian Gulf began using the land in this province when the culture of herding began in 500 BC For a long time, due to the favorable natural conditions, the small population, and the lack of advanced resources, there was a balance between human beings, livestock, and the environment.

If the necessary support is given and if preservation, revival, and use are practiced properly and according to principle, the natural resources in Bushehr Province will see great change in the near future, despite the climate, the salt, the chalk, and other limitations.

Fortunately, Natural Resources Week has provided an opportunity for us to interview Engineer Seyyed Mohsen Shah-Amirian, general manager of the Bushehr Province General Office of Natural Resources and to explore this office's procedures and performance in reviving, developing, and using the province's natural resources during the First Five-Year Plan and also for future five-year plans.

We asked Engineer Shah-Amirian how successful the province's General Office of Natural Resources was during the First Five-Year Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Plan. He said: Despite the natural and unnatural limitations, Bushehr Province has much potential and talent in the area of renewable natural resources.

He added: Bushehr Province has more than 1.762 million hectares of renewable natural resources. On the one hand the province's pastures are mostly third- and fourth-rate and have relatively poor plant cover. These same pastures have an annual capability of supporting about 1.6 million head of tribal livestock and 1 million head of rural livestock for 7 and 11 months of the year, respectively. Making best use of them requires planning, a balance between pasture capacity and the number of livestock, and revival and modification activity.

Fortunately, this general office's Office of Pastures has taken significant steps during the First Five-Year Plan to preserve, revive, and improve the province's pastures. In this regard it has carried out projects to produce feed, survey pastures, prepare pasture-keeping projects, create parks, procure water, produce saplings, and other things.

In this regard it has brought more than 5,250 hectares of land into the scope of projects for pasture-keeping and the storage of precipitation. Likewise 344,690 hectares of land has been surveyed, and 7,250 hectares has been graded. Other activities by this office include the production of 2.2 million pasture saplings of various kinds, the construction of 73 watering troughs, and the digging of 58 reservoir wells.

The general manager of Bushehr Province's General Office of Natural Resources said that last year forestry became more important in the country and that forest planting increased significantly in the country compared to previous years. He said: Naturally, Bushehr Province was no exception to this rule. Fortunately this general office's Office of Forestry, pursuant to the general goals of the presiding organization, has undertaken to plant forests and create green space so that during the First Five-Year Plan it has produced 1.6 million saplings and planted 3,200 hectares of forest.

He discussed the province's geographic position and said that Bushehr Province is one of the nation's dry and desert regions. With regard to preserving and reviving the soil in the province's pastures, he said: In the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] this general office began desert reclamation activities, pursuing natural resource goals previously set. Praise God, so far a vast area of the province's deserts has been brought under stable and compatible cultivation, and this has been quite effective in preserving and reviving this region's ecosystem. In this regard one can mention the production of 1.607 million potted seedlings and the planting of saplings on more than 500,000 hectares of land.

Continuing, Engineer Shah-Amirian cited the division of regions and map-making as other activities by this general office during the First Five-Year Plan. He noted: In this regard, in view of the policies, goals, and procedures of the National Forests and Pastures Organization, more than 504,000 hectares of land have been mapped, while 163,472 hectares have been designated as national resources with legally definitive status.

With regard to the transfer of land, he said: In implementing Article 31 of the executive guidelines for the Bill to Transfer and Revive Parcels of Land Larger than 39 million Square Meters for Projects Pertaining to Livestock, Poultry, Aquatic Life, and Feed Cultivation, almost 8 million square meters of land have been turned over to units in industry, government offices, and rural housing. During the same period close to 21 million square meters of national land has been transferred to groups with joint ownership.

Listing this general office's most important qualitative and quantitative goals, Engineer Shah-Amirian cited the increase in feed; public participation in implementing projects; preventing emigration and land destruction; the preservation, revival, and development of renewable natural resources; and the increase in proper and principled use, likewise making best use of existing resources and expanding of green space to improve the environment.

He discussed the measures taken by the Province of Bushehr General Office of Natural Resources in the first 11 months of the year 1373 [21 March 1994-19 February 1995]. He said: The measures taken during this period include: the implementation of four projects; the preservation of pastures; the production of seedlings; storage of precipitation; supervision of production of secondary crops to improve and revive tribal pastures; the implementation of five projects to produce saplings; the planting of forests and parks and annual forest plantings; the preservation of forest reserves and studies to expand and revive forest planting on more than 360 hectares; the implementation of three projects to procure livestock drinking water; six desert reclamation projects; two projects to preserve and protect forests and pastures; and four projects to survey lands, make sectional divisions, and regulate pastures.

In conclusion, he discussed the programs for Natural Resources Week and their implementation in the province. He said: The most important of these programs include: the transfer of 670 hectares of land to the public in Chahkutah and 'Isuvand in the framework of public participation projects; cooperation with the mayoral offices in the affiliated cities in the planting of saplings throughout the province; and planting trees on Solhabad Street. In fisheries, the programs include: holding meetings on watershed management; additional programs include holding school athletic contests, implementing the program to preserve ocean reserves, planting trees at the 8 Shahrivar Center, breeding and cultivating fish in the Haleh River, planting trees in various parts of the province, holding a consumer exposition for rural and tribal products, implementing the program for a mass preservation meeting at Reconstruction Jihad Hall, and maritime maneuvers by the Bushehr General Office of Fishers Sea Guard Unit. These projects were implemented with the cooperation of the Reconstruction Jihad, the province General Office of Natural Resources, and the province General Office of Fisheries.

He also added: With the transfer of 30,000 hectares of the province's pastures to pasture-keepers, the transfer of pastures under the First Five-Year Plan has reached almost 60,000 hectares. In addition, other activities by this office include the elevation of the level of expert knowledge and conducting training programs, the increase in skilled and expert manpower in various administrative sectors, the increase in natural resource administrative centers in the province, the construction and completion of administrative and organizational buildings throughout the province, and the formation of short and long-term training programs with the cooperation of the training centers in Tehran and Yasuj.

Pakistan

Editorial: 'Blacklist' Shows U.S. 'Prejudices'

BK0105104995 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 1 May 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Clinton's even rogues"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a news report splashed on the front pages of national dailies yesterday the US State Department has declared seven countries of the world as terrorist states: five of these are Muslim states such as Iran, Sudan, Libya, Iraq and Syria while two of them are countries with socialist governments. The so-called blacklist reflects the ancient hatreds of the Cold War era as well as the present prejudices of the sole superpower of the world.

One is not sure what criteria Americans are applying for fixing the terrorist tag, because if you exclude India, Israel and Belgrade from the list, it loses all credibility besides demonstrating that Washington's application is selective and possibly perverse. If certain countries foremost in committing acts of violence against other human beings are exempted from the list. It means that terrorism is not the criteria, but some other consideration. All the states pronounced as terrorists by the wise men of Washington have one thing in common. Their policies reflect the will of their people and not American obsessions. The harakiri by the Soviet Union has created a power vacuum in the world into which the US has stepped in, assuming the role of world policeman and arbiter. In the good old days of political certainties, this was known as imperialism. Today it is called the New World Order. In the past, CIA would destabilise popular Third World regimes through covert subversion and overt aggression. Now Washington finds it convenient to grab the prestigious UN flag and carry out its dubious designs under it. Only recently Pakistan itself was about to be put on the terrorist list for allegedly aiding the freedom fighters of Kashmir. After the present regime showed pliancy in its dealing with Washington, Islamabad was taken off the list of suspects.

Israel possesses close to 100 atomic bombs: [punctuation as published] has defied scores of UN resolutions and committed countless acts of terrorism in international airspace and on the high seas. India challenges the UN resolutions on a disputed territory by posting six lakh soldiers to crush those who seek UN sponsored plebiscite. Both Israel and India have nukes outside the framework of the world body. Yet these states will never be regarded as terrorists since they are useful to Washington either in strategic or economic fields.

One wonders what are going to be the implications of this move. First of all, Washington would unilaterally cease or scale down economic and technical links with these states. It would also pressurise other nations not to have normal relations with these states. In the case of some states, it may seek UN sponsored embargoes and also might not desist from taking military action against one or some of these nations with or without UN participation. Our government should not sit on the fence but publicly disassociate itself from American policies in this respect.

'Discriminatory Attitude' of West Viewed

BK0105092095 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 1 May 95 p 7

[Article by Anwar Ahmad: "Lessons of Oklahoma"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Oklahoma City blast appeared to have brought home the cost of America's role as the global policeman. It instantly focused the wrath of the American people on Muslims. All Muslims, especially those living in America, waited with bated breaths for the inevitable connection to be made with Islamic "fundamentalist". Sure enough, the first search call went out for two men of "Middle Eastern" appearance. President Clinton braced for backlash against Muslims by emphasising that religion and race of the terrorist did not necessarily mean that all of his kind shared his thoughts and methods. Nevertheless, American Muslims were abused on the streets, taunted by old colleagues, called animals, baby-killers, their lives threatened and their mosques shot at.

Fortunately, for the Muslims, the bombing turned out to be "domestic in nature". The focus of investigations shifted to two "white males", and one was arrested. The American public was acutely surprised (disappointed?) that the bomber was not a Muslim. For the moment, the mantle of villainy was shifted from Muslim shoulders. Leaders of the Muslim community congregated at the disaster site, condoled with the American people and, appropriately, registered their protest at being so summarily and wrongly accused. But in those agonising days all Muslims, even American citizens, learnt yet again the bitter truth that they are now the "presumed" enemy.

In an unrelated incident Robert S. McNamara, the Defence Secretary and prime strategist of America's Vietnam policy during the Kennedy-Johnson administrations, unveiled his book. He has aroused intense controversy by confessing that they were "terribly wrong" in launching the "futile" war. This "mistake" cost 60,000 American and almost 3.3 million Vietnamese lives, and devastated a whole country. However, the most crucial observation he made was that the "mistake" resulted from "... a profound ignorance of the history, culture and politics of the people in the area" and of the power of nationalism. The Chinese and the Vietnamese, for example, were divided by a tradition of war and hatred so deep than even communist ideology would not bridge.

But McNamara is wrong is stating that American ignorance was also shared by its foes. Unheeded voices of sanity had, even at that time, stated that America's perception of communism as a monolithic, expansionist monster was melodramatic; and, that dominoes will not necessarily fall. Similar voices, again unheeded, are now saying America's policy towards the Muslim world, especially the post-Soviet offensive, is also terribly wrong. So, though McNamara's confession will renew the pain of those who lost loved ones in Vietnam, he has served timely warning on those who will lose dear ones due to the ongoing mistake.

The America-led West—with far more power and far less international constraints than it had in the 1960s, but with equal ignorance of Muslim religion, culture and politics—is crafting confrontation out of a post-Soviet world tailor-made for peace and global prosperity. It avoids honouring the vital provision of the NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] envisaging eventual nuclear disarmament, and desires its indefinite extension. It pressures Pakistan and Egypt to sign on, but thwarts Iran, a signatory and thus entitled to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, from doing so. The obvious objective is to use the Treaty to deny nuclear weapons to the Muslims—and to flout it to retain Western nuclear monopoly.

This discriminatory attitude manifests itself in Western treatment of all Muslim states, on all issues. The use and abuse of Pakistan, rape of Palestine, continuing agony of Bosnia are too well known to be repeated. Turkey, despite coercive westernisation since Ataturk, always remained a second-rate member of Nato, an unwelcome interloper into the European Community. Iran became an overnight enemy with the ouster of the Shah. It was bled through Iraq, then the latter was bludgeoned into the Middles Ages at the cost of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Power in Algeria was denied to "fundamentalists" even when obtained through the ballot.

A strangulating embargo is imposed on Libya for harbouring suspects of the Lockerbie bombing of a Pan Am airliner—even though western intelligence agencies disagree whether it was Libya or Iran which sponsored the tragic crash. So strict are restrictions that Egypt had to intervene to seek permission for its airline to ferry a handful of Hajis [pilgrims] to go to the holy land. Yet, Saudi Arabia, practically a vassal who has laid its tremendous wealth at the doorstep of the master, received a reprimand for allowing a Libyan airliner carrying Hajis to land and take off from Jeddah.

What massage are such insensitive acts and policies designed to send to the Muslims? Will these not fuel already inflammatory rhetoric of the "fundamentalists"? Figures released by the counter-terrorism wing of the US State Department Indicate that "secular" terrorist acts dropped worldwide to the lowest level since the last 23 years. But, ominously, such acts by Muslims registered an increase.

The seven states "sponsoring terrorism" include Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan and Libya—not Israel (North Korea and Cuba are included to give the list a semblance of secularism). Is it really surprising that "fundamentalist" bombs are ticking away across the Muslim world? Given the immense technological gap, and especially after Iraq, there will be no head-on confrontation by any Muslim state or group. The refuge of the weak and the oppressed is the bomb. That is why one's terrorist is another's hero.

If lessons are to be learnt from the Oklahoma disaster and the McNamara confessions, these are One, this confrontational policy towards the Muslim world is either based on a gross misperception of its internal dynamics, or on sheer, deliberate bigotry—a continuation of the crusades (while misperceptions can be dispelled, bigotry is incurable). Like the communist "bloc", the Muslim world is neither politically nor ethnolinguistically a monolithic unit, as painted by ideological hawks in the West. Like the communist "bloc", it has its internal fissures, and has never been united except through conquest—of which there is no possibility now. Hence there is no Islamic political or economic entity to confront the West. So where is the threat?

Two, Muslim people do not want confrontation with the West. More importantly, they would prefer to co-exist harmoniously if treated fairly and left alone to experiment with applying Islamic prescriptions to modern maladies. Is that too much to expect?

Three, equally important is the need to realise the fundamental reality that Muslim bombs are being primed by Western hypocrisy and discrimination, not by any compulsive internal dynamics of Islam.

Four, at present, extremist Muslim reaction is restricted in scope and intensity due to lack of active popular support. Plus, the West retains control of the power elite. But the Iranian revolution proved that this could change dramatically. Or, more dangerously, a lone "fundamentalist" may decide that he would rather die with honour than live and be degraded. Islam does glorify death in its defence.

Five, the Japanese gas attacks, the Oklahoma bombing and now the South Korean gas blast have underscored awesome power of the saboteur and extreme vulnerability of modern day, urban high rise dwellers. One shudders to imagine the 110-storey Sears Tower of Chicago crumbling into a mangled heap of steel and concrete. Or a poison gas attack in a crowded New York Subway. The possibilities are frightening, and endless. Unless each building, each facility is fortified, the threat will remain hauntingly real.

Finally, the "fundamentalist" bogey, too, has been raised by the West to justify its continued militarisation and to install corrupt regimes in Muslim states. Any Muslim group which resists socio- economic, cultural and political invasion by the West, and desires to retain its theological moorings, is thus branded.

In its general sense every society has its extremists—like Timothy McVeigh. But if the amorphous term is confined to the obscurantist Islamic clergy, it is a threat to Islam not to the West. Western attempts to suppress them, seen in the context of its discriminatory policies, only swell their ranks and strengthen their resolve. The most potent weapon against them is for the West to be seen as fair in its dealing with the Muslim world. Then, the contest will shift to its natural arena—within each Muslim society, between progressive and retrogressive forces. The outcome will determine the future of each Muslim society, without affecting the West.

Thus, causes of the problem and the cure both lie in the West. The cure seems far simpler, and cheaper, than the efforts to conjure up a confrontation out of nothing. Decisions have to be made, or else other confessions of mistakes based on ignorance will be made too late.

Leghari Stresses Need To Resolve Kashmir Dispute

BK0105123195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 May 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said he will impress upon the Indian Government that a just solution to the Kashmir issue is imperative for rapid progress in the region. In an interview with a foreign broadcasting agency, the president said the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is not progressing rapidly because of the tension between Pakistan and India over the Kashmir dispute. The president said that until relations between India and Pakistan are improved through the settlement of contentious issues, there can be no trade agreement between the two countries nor any fruitful cooperation. President Leghari said the two countries should resolve all political problems peacefully for the benefit of the people of the region. He made it clear, however, that unless the Kashmir issue is on the agenda there cannot be any useful talks between the two countries.

'Notorious Saboteur' Details Plot To Kill Bhutto

BK0105124495 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 1 May 95 pp 8, 4

[Report by Mian Mohammad Rafiq]

[FBIS Translated Text] Peshawar—It has come to light that the notorious saboteur Abdul Shukoor, who allegedly intended to assassinate Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, belongs to the Baloch clan and is an Iranian citizen. The alleged saboteur, who was arrested with sabotage materials at the Peshawar Cantonment Railway Station, disclosed some of his acts of sabotage during interrogation. On that basis, he was handed over to the Sindh police the other day so he could identify the areas where he committed acts of sabotage.

The alleged saboteur was handed over for formal interrogation to a joint interrogation team of the Northwest Frontier Province that included the Special Branch Intelligence Bureau, military Intelligence, Inter Services Intelligence, the CIA [Crime Investigation Agency], and the crime branch of Peshawar. The investigation was carried out in various stages, and it was revealed that Abdul Shukoor and his accomplice had hatched a conspiracy to assassinate the prime minister. They could not accomplish their mission, however, because secret service personnel were present near 70 Clifton, where Benazir Bhutto was staying that night, to provide security and monitor the situation. Benazir Bhutto was the opposition leader at that time. They further revealed that they have links with certain saboteurs in Sindh. The sabotage materials, which had to be brought to Karachi on the Khyber Mail train, were intended to bomb a place of worship of a religious sect. The saboteur said his conspiracy failed when he was arrested.

Ceremony Held for Indigenously Rebuilt Submarine

BK2904143095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Indigenous rebuild completion ceremony of submarine Ghazi of Pakistan Navy was held at naval dockyard in Karachi today. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani said the government is trying to encourage indigenous production of defense equipment as we cannot entirely depend on sources outside the country for our defense requirements. The defense minister said the government is giving due importance to the needs of Pakistan Navy in order to enhance its shore and offshore defense capabilities.

The managing director of Pakistan Navy Dockyard [PND], Commodore Sheikh Mukhtar Ahmad, said till date PND has completed 19 rebuilds of Daphne and Agosta class submarines and the entire rebuild process undertaken in the country has saved over $60 million per submarine. He said all expenses for the rebuilds are met out of Pakistan Navy's own maintenance budget. The overall technical capabilities of the naval dockyard were explained to the minister of defense.

Further on Defense Minister's Remarks

BK3004115595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 30 Apr 95 p 14

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi (APP)—Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani has said that the government was not oblivious to the maritime interests and naval requirements of the country. He was speaking as chief guest at the rebuild completion ceremony of Pakistan Navy [PN] submarine at PNS [Pakistan Naval Station] Abdoze Ground, PN Dockyard, here Saturday [29 April]. He said that the government was striving to encourage indigenous production of defence equipment, as no country could depend entirely on sources outside the country for its defence requirements. He said that a second naval harbour at Ormara was already under construction and will prove to be a valuable asset for the country on completion. Similarly, Jinnah Naval Base will have refit and rebuild yard and will be an important stride towards self reliance and indigenous construction, he added. Mirani expressed the hope that the navy would continue to strive for self-reliance, as far as possible and also explore local resources for various works. He said that despite financial constraints, the government has always endeavoured to accord highest priority to the defence requirements of the country. The Defence Minister observed that the government has also given due importance to the needs of the Navy which is evident from the fact that several projects have been initiated to enhance the fleet strength and infrastructure ashore. He said that Pakistan has recently acquired the Type 21 Frigates from the UK as an interim measure to fill the gap due to the unexpected return of Frigates leased from the US. He said that Pakistan Navy was in the process of acquiring modern and stare-of-the-art submarines from France which is expected to improve substantially the strike capability of the Navy. He said that some other new additions in the fleet were also expected including the induction of Eridan class mine hunters with transfer of technology for construction of mine hunters in Pakistan. Aftab Shaban Mirani expressed his satisfaction over the completion of the rebuild of submarine, PNS [Pakistan Navy Ship] Ghazi, and said that it was extremely reassuring to see the progress made by the navy in undertaking complex and intricate engineering tasks. In his address of welcome, the Managing Director, Pakistan Navy dockyard, Commodore Shaikh Mukhtar Ahmad, informed that PN Dockyard personnel have mastered the technical aspects for rebuilding sophisticated war machine, thereby eliminating dependence on French engineers to almost zero. He said that due to excessively polluted waters of harbours, corrosion on the hulls of ships and submarines has become the most critical problem. He said that PN Dockyard was basically meant to cater for the repair requirements of the surface ships but with the introduction of first submarine into PN fleet in 1964 subsequently resulted in the establishment of submarine rebuild facility at PN Dockyard.

PPI adds: The Naval Chief Admiral Mansural Haq Saturday rejected Indian objection over the acquisition of three French Agosta-90b submarines by Pakistan Navy and said it would not alter the balance of naval power in the region.

"Indian protest to France over the sale of the three submarines is a bogey. We are only replacing the ageing four Daphne class submarines in our naval fleet by three new ones from France. In fact we should have made a contract to buy four submarines." He said while answering newsmen questions after the rebuild completion ceremony of navy submarine Ghazi at the naval dockyard in Karachi.

The naval chief was asked to comment on Indian's protest to France against the sale of three submarines to Pakistan recently claiming it would disturb the balance of power in the region. Admiral Mansural Haq said that France was committed to honour the contract it signed with Pakistan last September for three Agosta 90b submarines costing 900 million dollars. He disclosed that the first submarine would be delivered to Pakistan in early 1990 while the remaining two by completely built in French naval dockyard the third one will be built in Pakistan naval dockyard. [sentence as published]

Sri Lanka

LTTE Leader Sends Letter to Kumaratunga

BK0105161595 (Internet) CIRCLE Newsletter in English 0600 GMT 30 Apr 95

["Text" of letter to President Kumaratunga from Velupillai Prabhakaran, LTTE leader, on 16 March; place not given—received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dear President, Thank you for your letter dated 9th March, 1995. The first part of your letter refers to certain discrepancies in the contents of a press release issued by the International Secretariat of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] with regard to your suggestion of a neutral intermediary. I think it would be appropriate to consider my personal communication to your as the point of reference on this matter.

You will appreciate that from the outset we have been emphasizing the creation of genuine conditions of peace and the restoration of normal civilian life as essential pre-requisites for the promotion of peace negotiations. We have taken this position for specific reasons.

We are of the opinion that a durable condition of peace effected by a stable cease-fire is absolutely essential to embark on the difficult, time consuming, negotiating process aimed at resolving the highly complex ethnic conflict. You would have observed that in the past, political negotiations collapsed as a consequence of unstable cease-fires, the breaches of which lead to resumption of the armed conflict. I regret to say that your government has not taken our view seriously on this critical issue. This is very evident in the approach of your government by emphasizing the category of cessation of hostilities, which means a temporary suspension of armed hostilities rather than utilizing the full meaning of the concept of "cease-fire." Furthermore, the disinterested disregard on the part of the government to our continuous plea to work out a comprehensive mechanism pertaining to modalities of cease fire demonstrates the fact that your government shows little or no concern for the stabilization of the condition of peace.

Your are certainly aware that conditions of normal life have been seriously disrupted in the Northeast as a direct consequence of the repressive racist policies of the previous administration, which sought a ruthless military approach to resolve the Tamil national question. Our people have been subjected to enormous suffering and hardship as a result of various bans, prohibitions and restrictions that were imposed on their social and economic existence primarily for the sake of facilitating military occupation domination of the Tamil homeland. The LTTE as well and the Tamil people, entertained a hope that your new government, which assumed power with a mandate for peace, would alleviate this hardship and create a congenial atmosphere of peace and normalcy. Based on this hope we have been pleading that the initial stages of the peace negotiations should give primacy to, what we have characterized as, urgent and immediate issues confronting the Tamil people. At the peace talks we have specified these issues, which are of paramount importance to the day to day existence of our people, and called upon the government to redress these grievances. We have consistently emphasized that these are not demands of the LTTE, but rather urgent humanitarian needs of an aggrieved people and that these issues have to be resolved to restore normal conditions of civilian life in the war affected areas. Though, at the initial stages of the talks, your government pledged to alleviate the hardships of daily life presently experienced by the people, later as the negotiations proceeded we could notice a deliberate attempt to circumvent these issues under the argument that political issues underlying the ethnic conflict should be given primacy. We have referred to this matter in our previous communications and attributed this reluctance to resolve the urgent and immediate issues to the governments desire to placate the military hierarchy and pointed out that this approach of giving primacy to the strategic interests of the military over and above the existential concern of a civilian population, would pose a serious threat to the peace process.

Our perception on this critical issue and our apprehension about the military designs are confirmed by your latest letter when you say that the granting of some of the "demands" put forward by the LTTE could spark off "serious military repercussions." The issues we have raised as urgent needs of the people, particularly the facilitating of a passage to Jaffna by removing Pooneryn Army Camp, lifting the economic embargo on essential items, withdrawing the ban on fishing are, in your view, problems of "national security" which cannot be compromised. In other words, you are attempting to legitimize the constraints and sanctions imposed by the military on the social and economic life of the Tamil people as essential requirements for the maintenance of "national security."

We are deeply perturbed and dismayed over your position on this critical matter which deeply affects our people. This position, based on a mistaken conception, that reduces the rights and liberties of a community of people to potential threat to national security, presupposes not only pure militarism, but also hidden elements of chauvinism.

The refusal to resolve the most urgent issues that beset our people as uncompromising security issues indicates the fact that your government is determined to perpetuate the military and economic coercions on the Tamils as bargaining cards to set political gains at the negotiating table. It is because of this view that you are insisting that these issues should be resolved within the framework of an overall political settlement. We cannot agree to this position. The immediate day to day problems that confront our people are not political issues arising from ethnic contradictions, but rather problems engineered by the military which clearly define strategic objectives. We are of the opinion that these bans, restrictions and prohibitions are repressive military actions instituted by the previous government which are unfair and inhuman and have to be resolved on humanitarian grounds; on grounds of building genuine peace and goodwill between the estranged nations.

In our several communications addressed to your during the last six months and during the peace negotiations we have been consistently reiterating the urgency of resolving the immediate day to day problems of our people. Our insistence on these issues should not be misconstrued as attempts to bypass discussion on fundamental political issues underlying the ethnic conflict. We have never refused to discuss political issues. We have even gone to the extent of suggesting a suitable framework that could satisfy the national aspirations of our people. The underlying cause for the current impasse in the peace process has nothing to do with the resumption of political dialogue but rather the reluctance on the part of your government to deal with the immediate and urgent issues on grounds of military repercussions.

If your government continues to adopt this hard-line attitude on issues that need urgent resolution and which could be resolved without difficulty if there is a genuine will, we have grounds to suspect whether your government would be able to resolve the most complex, and difficult issue i.e. the national conflict. Therefore, we urge you once again to reconsider your decision for the cause of peace. If a favorable response is not received from you before the 28th March, 1995, we will be compelled to make a painful decision as to whether to continue with the peace process or not. Anticipating an early reply,

With regards Yours sincerely,

[Signed] V. Prabhakaran Leader Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

President Attends Aid Group Meeting in Paris

Addresses Economic Policies

BK2804143195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga says the government's new economic policies were intended to double national income and virtually eliminate unemployment by the end of the century. Mrs. Kumaratunga was addressing the Sri Lanka aid group meeting 1995 in Paris yesterday. She told the group that her government faced an enormous challenge of trying to pursue pro-market policies in totally democratic framework. The president observed that there are very few countries which achieved these twin objectives simultaneously.

Referring to Sri Lanka's economic performance last year, Mrs. Kumaratunga pointed out that the gross domestic product grew by 5.6 percent. Despite this satisfactory growth, the new administration inherited the dangers of fiscal situation when it came to power in August. These problems had been caused by the additional expenditure pledged to the public merely four months the general elections. The president said that her government had resolved to make a clean break with the past. Double digit inflation is to be reduced to around 5 or 6 percent in 1997. Measures are also to be taken to reduce the fiscal and trade deficits over the next three years. Referring to Sri Lanka's structural adjustment problems, President Kumaratunga said the government was committed to divesting public assets on the basis of strategic partnerships evolving the private sector. Every possible measure was being taken to eliminate wasteful spending and tighten government accountability. Mrs. Kumaratunga pointed out that her government expenditure could be drastically reduced if the Northeast conflict was resolved. Waste has also been curtailed by organizing a single, poverty alleviation, program—the Samrdhi [Prosperity] Movement. The president then addressed various that were important to economic reforms, such as the rationalization of import duties, the deregulation of the labor and agriculture sector, diversification of industry and the development of infrastructure.

Mrs. Kumaratunga then stressed the need for peace in the country. She outlined the government's policy toward the conflict and said the administration's commitment to peace and democracy within a united Sri Lanka was irrevocable. The president pointed out that most Sri Lankans desired peace. She also warned the potential for a conflict in the rest of the country, citing the insurgencies of 1971 and 1987. Observing that these conflicts had economic roots, she stressed that her government did not believe that suppression of discontentment was a viable option for democracy. In this context, Mrs. Kumaratunga observed that the availibility of foreign aid over the next few years is critical to Sri Lanka's economic and political reforms. The people of the Northeast would especially need assurances of the international community's support for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the affected areas if peace were to become a reality. This will be particularly relevant now when the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had unilaterally abrogated the cessation of hostilities.

In conclusion, the president thanked donor representatives for the generous offers of assistance made so far.

Donor nations at the Sri Lanka aid group meeting have unanimously endorsed Sri Lanka's significant progress in creating a secure environment for private sector activities and for ensuring respect for human rights. The United States, Britain, Canada and the European Union have applauded the efforts of the government in its commitment to achieve a lasting and peaceful resolution of the ethnic problem. They say that if civil conflict can be avoided, Sri Lanka's growth prospects over the medium term remain excellent. The U.S. Government's assistance program to Sri Lanka has pledged nearly $82 million for this year, including $10 million in food commodities. The delegation will request the U.S. Congress for $28.4 million in funding for the fiscal year 1996. The assistance program will be three-pronged. The first is economic growth to create new and better paying jobs for low income groups. The second is protection of the environment and to ensure the future availability of natural resources and to foster and protect tourism and fisheries; with the third objective to encourage citizens to become better informed to identify their problems and to resolve them.

The British Government is very appreciative of the stand taken by the government and its sustained commitment to reforms and their effective implementation. The head of the Canadian delegation said that Sri Lanka's economy performed well with a growth rate envied by many Western nations last year. He commended Sri Lanka's commitment to economic liberalization and urged the government to stay on the course of its program of privatization and economic adjustments. All donor delegations have been unanimous in condemning the LTTE's abrogation of the cessation of hostilities agreement, as well as the unilateral decisions of the LTTE to abandon the peace process. They have called on the LTTE to return to the process of peaceful negotiations. All donors are confdient that President Kumaratunga and her administration were sincere and courageous in their efforts to negotiate a lasting peace in Sri Lanka. They were convinced that the president and her government have launched an ambitious and exciting program that, if successful, will improve substantially the economy of the country and the lives of all Sri Lankan people.

Aid Group Pledges $850 Million

BK2904134395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sri Lanka Aid Group has pledged $850 million. This is more than the anticipated $100 million. The group pledged this amount at the conclusion of its two-day meeting in Paris yesterday.

The World Bank vice chairman, (Paul Ezirman), who presided, said that the commitment of the donor nations reflected the strong support of the international community to the Sri Lanka Government in its development efforts. In his summary of the proceedings, he said that the aid group is encouraged by the government's commitment to [words indistinct] of adjustment and peace. He stressed that President Chandrika Kumaratunga's courage and sincere determination to seek peace is clearly recognized and unanimously praised. The vice chairman said that the participants reaction to the resumption of hostilities by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was one of deploration in the light of confidence building measures that have been taken to improve living conditions in the north. Support was expressed for the government's mission [word indistinct] and for continued nation building efforts.

There was a later discussion about the poverty alleviation program, the group supported the Prosperity Movement's progress. Donor countries expressed their support for nutrition projects. On the economic front, they endorsed the government's policies and urged it to strengthen and accelerate the implementation aspect. On human rights, they expressed satisfaction and also urged the government to continue its efforts in that direction.

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